●一条ゆかり
9月19日生まれの乙女座。
りぼん昭和43年3月号「雪のセレナーデ」でデビュー。以降、数々のまんがやエッセイを発表し、幅広い読者層を獲得している。
代表作「デザイナー」「砂の城」「有閑倶楽部」。

カバーデザイン・石川雅代

砂の城 2

一条ゆかり

La vie est un
éternel château de sable
sans cesse battu
par les flots.

de beauté

集英社文庫

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34-2

砂の城 2 一条ゆかり

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5a1

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転学したフランシスは、友人のアランやエドウィンなどの交流を通して、やさしいいを持った青年に成長、美しい婚約人、ナタリーを守ってあげたいと願うようになる。

そんなある日、フランシスは美少女ミルフィーヌと出会い、急速に親しくなってゆく。

ナタリーはミルフィーヌの若さに動揺し、フランシスの心が自分から離れてしまうのではないかと、不安をいだくが……

集英社文庫〈コミック版〉
——既刊大好評発売中——

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こいきな奴ら 全2巻
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やさしい手を、もってる
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もりたじゅん名作選◆①うみどり
②海岸花の新小岩3丁目
いくえみ綾コレクション◆①エンゲージ
②以心伝心のお月さん

THE SANDCASTLE

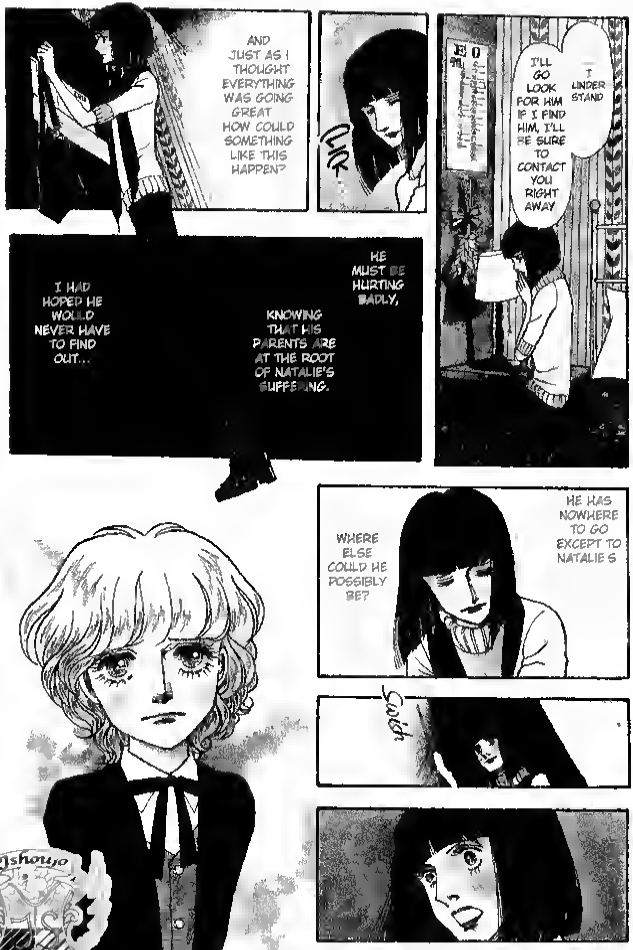
2

ICHIJOU YUKARI

集英社文庫

THE SANDCASTLE
2
LE CHÂTEAU DE SABLE
ICHIJOU YUKARI

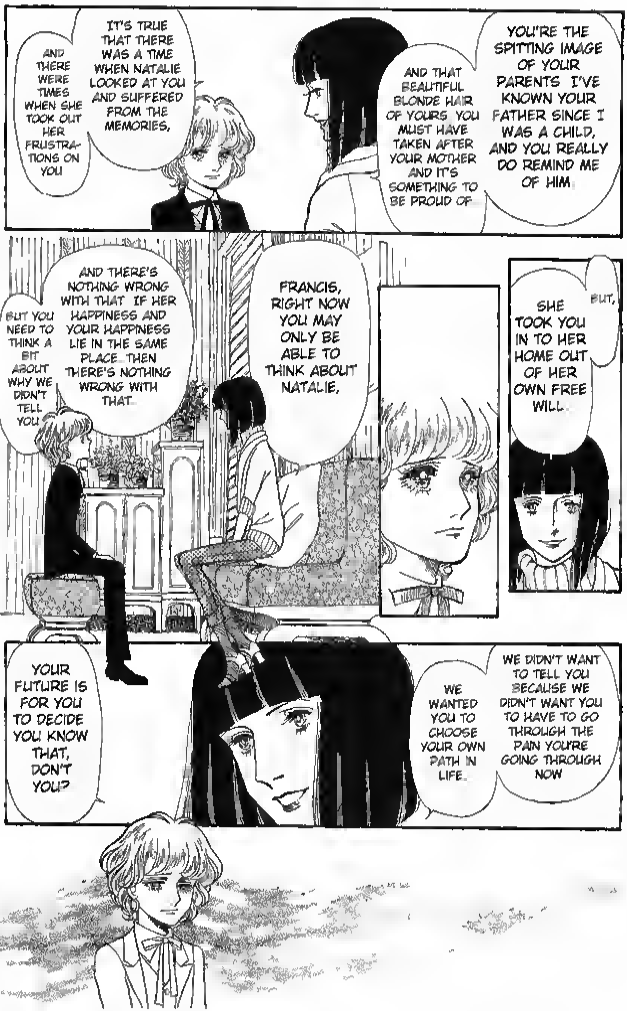
I WONDER IF I SHOULD CALL HIM RIGHT NOW?
TWO TICKETS TO A CONCERT AT THE WEEKEND
HE SHOULD BE AT SCHOOL TODAY,
AND PLUS, I'D LIKE TO ASK HOW FRANCIS IS DOING TOO.
HELLO MAY I PLEASE SPEAK TO MONSIEUR LANDERRE ?
AH ...
HELLO, THIS IS BLAINE AUMONT. I'M SORRY TO DISTURB YOU WHILE YOU'RE AT SCHOOL —
What?! Francis left the school grounds without permission?
But, he's not one to do something like this...
Roget Anton?
YES, I'VE HEARD ABOUT HIM FROM NATALIE ....
THAT MEANS FRANCIS KNOWS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HER IN THE PAST ...?
I JUST SPOKE WITH NATALIE, BUT IT SEEMS HE HASN'T GONE BACK THERE
NO I HAVEN'T TOLD HER ANYTHING
I'M JUST A BIT CONCERNED BECAUSE HE SEEMED TO BE VERY SHAKEN BY WHAT HE HEARD

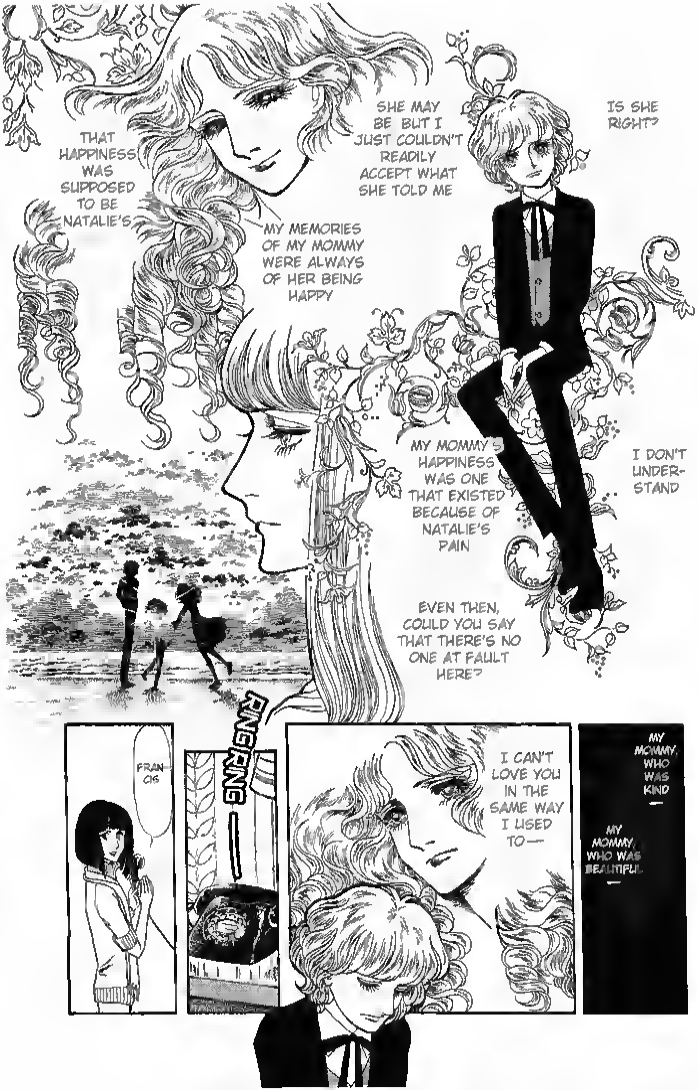

AND JUST AS I THOUGHT EVERYTHING WAS GOING GREAT HOW COULD SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPEN?
CLK
I'LL GO LOOK FOR HIM IF I FIND HIM, I'LL BE SURE TO CONTACT YOU RIGHT AWAY
I UNDERSTAND
I HAD HOPED HE WOULD NEVER HAVE TO FIND OUT...
KNOWING THAT HIS PARENTS ARE AT THE ROOT OF NATALIE'S SUFFERING.
HE MUST BE HURTING BADLY,
WHERE ELSE COULD HE POSSIBLY BE?
HE HAS NOWHERE TO GO EXCEPT TO NATALIE'S
Catch

EVERYONE KNEW, AND YOU ALL KEPT IT FROM ME!
YOU KNEW!
Francis
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU SURPRISED ME...
NO ONE KEPT IT FROM YOU OUT OF CRUELTY...
CALM DOWN, FRANCIS.
It had to do with my parents, so why didn't you ever tell me?!
I was the only one who knew nothing, and I ended up hurting her because of it!
Francis...
THEN NATALIE COULD'VE —
I SHOULD'VE NEVER BEEN BORN!

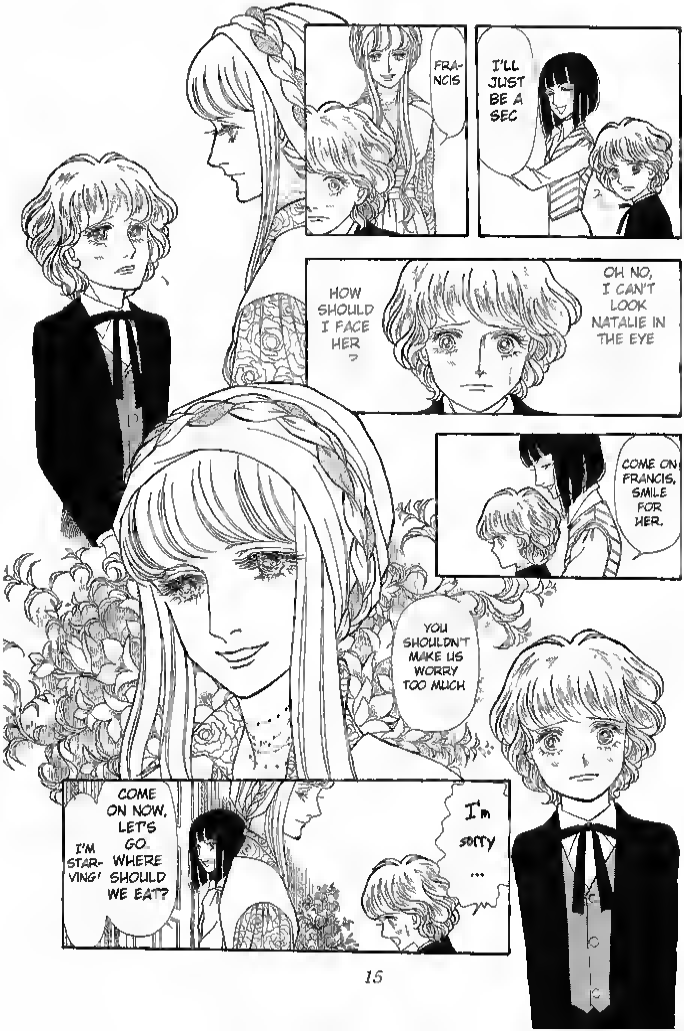
YOU'VE CROSSED THE LINE
SLAP
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WOULD THINK THAT
COME IN WE CAN'T TALK OUT HERE
Elaine ..
YOU MIGHT WANT TO THINK THAT WAY BECAUSE YOU CARE ABOUT NATALIE,
BUT THAT WOULD ONLY BE UNFAIR TO YOUR MOTHER
OKAY THEN ... YOU RE AT THE AGE WHERE YOU ARE ABLE TO THINK MORE RATIONALLY
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND FRANCIS THAT YOU CAN'T JUST LOOK AT THINGS FROM JUST ONE POINT OF VIEW
HOW OLD ARE YOU FRANCIS ?
12

But... the one who was supposed to marry daddy was Natalie...
FROM HER POINT OF VIEW, NATALIE MIGHT'VE BEEN A TERRIBLE PERSON.
SHE COULD HAVE LIVED HAPPILY WITH HER FAMILY IF NATALIE HADN'T SHOWED UP
WASN'T YOUR MOTHER A GOOD PERSON?
DIDN'T YOU LOVE HER?
I did love her.
IT'S TRUE NATALIE WAS HURT BECAUSE OF ALL THIS, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE HER WOUNDS WERE NEVER ABLE TO HEAL
THERE IS NO BAD GUY HERE THAT YOU CAN PLACE ALL THE BLAME ON.
MANY THINGS HAPPENED. IT'S NOT AS IF YOUR MOTHER STOLE HIM FROM HER.
Me...?
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE THERE FOR HER.
FRANCIS, IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU THAT SHE WAS ABLE TO REGAIN HER ABILITY TO LAUGH.
THAT'S RIGHT YOU RE THE ONE WHO SAVED NATALIE


AND THERE WERE TIMES WHEN SHE TOOK OUT HER FRUSTRATIONS ON YOU
IT'S TRUE THAT THERE WAS A TIME WHEN NATALIE LOOKED AT YOU AND SUFFERED FROM THE MEMORIES.
AND THAT BEAUTIFUL BLONDE HAIR OF YOURS. YOU MUST HAVE TAKEN AFTER YOUR MOTHER AND IT'S SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF.
YOU'RE THE SPITTING IMAGE OF YOUR PARENTS. I'VE KNOWN YOUR FATHER SINCE I WAS A CHILD, AND YOU REALLY DO REMIND ME OF HIM.
BUT YOU NEED TO THINK A BIT ABOUT WHY WE DIDN'T TELL YOU.
AND THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT. IF HER HAPPINESS AND YOUR HAPPINESS LIE IN THE SAME PLACE, THEN THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT.
FRANCIS, RIGHT NOW YOU MAY ONLY BE ABLE TO THINK ABOUT NATALIE.
BUT,
SHE TOOK YOU IN TO HER HOME OUT OF HER OWN FREE WILL.
YOUR FUTURE IS FOR YOU TO DECIDE. YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?
WE WANTED YOU TO CHOOSE YOUR OWN PATH IN LIFE.
WE DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU BECAUSE WE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE PAIN YOU'RE GOING THROUGH NOW.

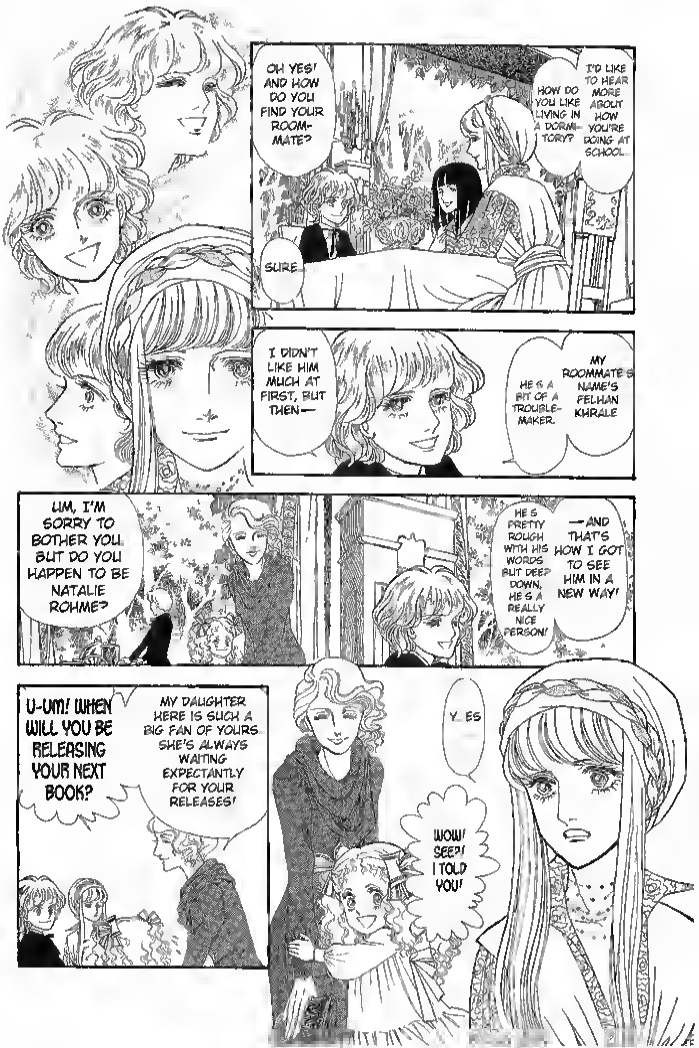

THAT HAPPINESS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE NATALIE'S
MY MEMORIES OF MY MOMMY WERE ALWAYS OF HER BEING HAPPY
SHE MAY BE BUT I JUST COULDN'T READILY ACCEPT WHAT SHE TOLD ME
IS SHE RIGHT?
MY MOMMY'S HAPPINESS WAS ONE THAT EXISTED BECAUSE OF NATALIE'S PAIN
I DON'T UNDER-STAND
EVEN THEN, COULD YOU SAY THAT THERE'S NO ONE AT FAULT HERE?
RING RING
FRAN-CIS
I CAN'T LOVE YOU IN THE SAME WAY I USED TO—
MY MOMMY, WHO WAS KIND —
MY MOMMY, WHO WAS BEAUTIFUL —

I HAVEN'T TOLD NATALIE ANYTHING, SO YOU SHOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO WORRY HER.
YOU KNOW THAT DON'T YOU?
YES I'M SORRY
I JUST SUDDENLY FELT LIKE GOING HOME REALLY BADLY
BUT I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY SO I CAME TO ELAINE'S PLACE...
I'M SORRY TO MAKE YOU WORRY
NATALIE
I'LL GO BACK TO THE DORM NOW.
FRANCIS! ELAINE!
OH, IF YOU BROKE THE SCHOOL RULES THAT MEANS YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS NEXT WEEK, RIGHT?
IF YOU CAN'T LEAVE SCHOOL NEXT WEEK THEN WHY DON'T YOU HAVE DINNER WITH US?
YOU CAN GIVE A QUICK CALL TO THE SCHOOL TO LET THEM KNOW YOU'RE HERE

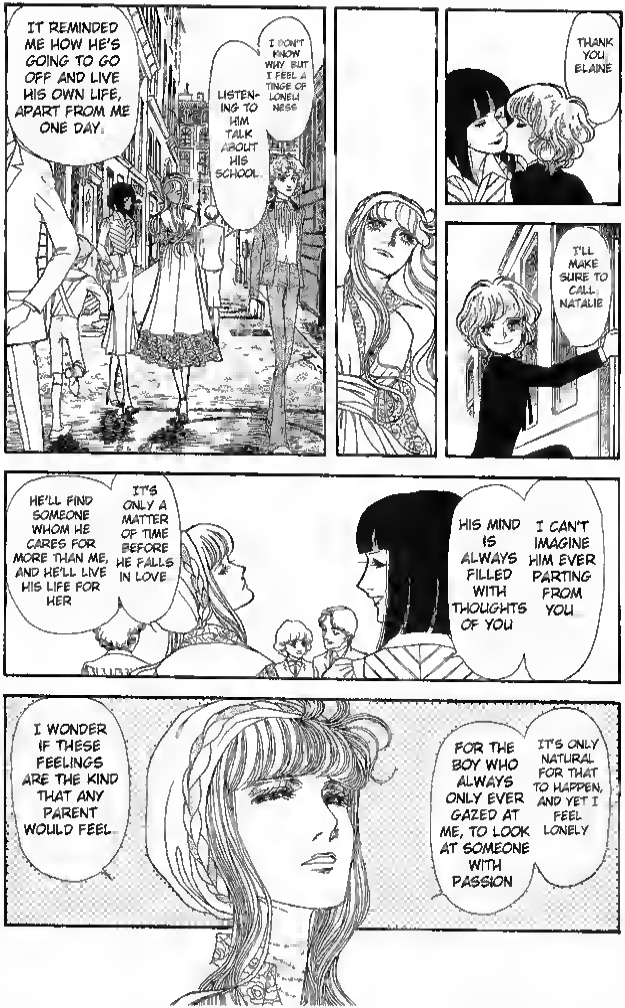

FRANCIS
I'LL JUST BE A SEC
OH NO, I CAN'T LOOK NATALIE IN THE EYE
HOW SHOULD I FACE HER ?
COME ON, FRANCIS, SMILE FOR HER.
YOU SHOULDN'T MAKE US WORRY TOO MUCH
I'm sorry ...
COME ON NOW, LET'S GO. WHERE SHOULD WE EAT?
I'M STARVING!

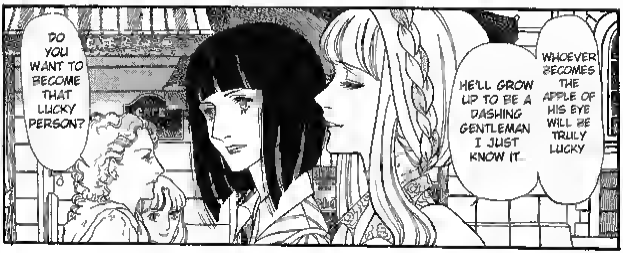
SURE
FRANCIS DO YOU LIKE SHRIMP?
THE ONES THEY HAVE HERE ARE REALLY DELICIOUS
FOR DESSERT, ICE CREAM WITH HOT CHOCOLATE DRIZZLED ON TOP SOUNDS GREAT
UNTIL NOW I ALWAYS TOLD HER EVERYTHING
I'VE KEPT A SECRET FROM HER.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME
IT'S ALMOST AS IF I'M LOOKING AT A DIFFERENT PERSON
THE PERSON SHE IS WHEN SHE'S ALONE,
AND THE KIND OF PERSON SHE IS WHEN SHE'S OUTSIDE, ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT
I'VE SPENT ALL THIS TIME WITH HER, YET I...
WHAT WAS IT ABOUT NATALIE THAT I WAS SEEING UNTIL NOW?
"SHE TRIED TO KILL HERSELF MANY TIMES."

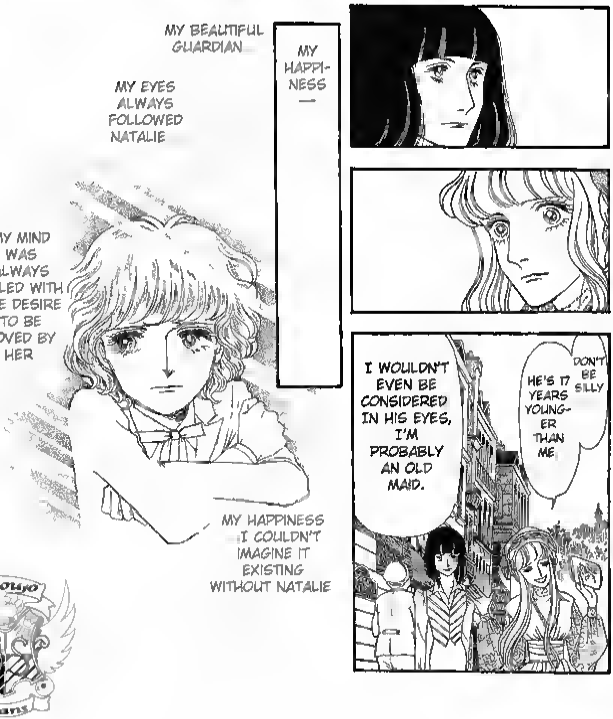
W-Well... you always look young and beautiful
SO I WAS JUST WONDERING WHY I'M GROWING UP, BUT YOU ALWAYS STAY THE SAME.
umm
WHAT'S WRONG, FRANCIS?
YOU AREN'T VERY TALKATIVE TODAY
NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE! YOU'RE REALLY BEAUTIFUL!
TELL ME ABOUT IT! LATELY I'VE GOTTEN SCARED TO LOOK IN THE MIRROR JUST THINKING ABOUT FINDING A WRINKLE ONE OF THESE DAYS FILLS ME WITH DREAD!
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU THOUGH. BUT I'M NOT AS YOUNG AS YOU THINK
WHY THANK YOU FRANCIS. WHAT A WONDERFUL COMPLIMENT
You are amazing too you are!
N-No, I'm not forcing myself
I-I wasn't trying to say that you weren't
um ..
DON'T WORRY YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO TRY TO COME UP WITH COMPLIMENTS FOR ME
IT'S TRUE!
YOU WERE THE PRETTIEST ONE AT THE PARTY WE WENT TO THE OTHER DAY!
AH.
FINALLY, YOU'RE ACTING LIKE YOUR OLD SELF AGAIN.
YOU'RE MUCH MORE CHARMING THIS WAY!
Ah sorry ...
CHUCKLE CHUCKLE
HUH, WELL IT IS TRUE NATALIE'S A KNOCKOUT


I'D LIKE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT HOW YOU'RE DOING AT SCHOOL.
HOW DO YOU LIKE LIVING IN A DORMITORY?
OH YES! AND HOW DO YOU FIND YOUR ROOMMATE?
SURE.
MY ROOMMATE'S NAME'S FELHAN KHRALE
HE'S A BIT OF A TROUBLEMAKER.
I DIDN'T LIKE HIM MUCH AT FIRST, BUT THEN—
—AND THAT'S HOW I GOT TO SEE HIM IN A NEW WAY!
HE'S PRETTY ROUGH WITH HIS WORDS BUT DEEP DOWN, HE'S A REALLY NICE PERSON!
UM, I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, BUT DO YOU HAPPEN TO BE NATALIE ROHME?
MY DAUGHTER HERE IS SUCH A BIG FAN OF YOURS. SHE'S ALWAYS WAITING EXPECTANTLY FOR YOUR RELEASES!
U-UM! WHEN WILL YOU BE RELEASING YOUR NEXT BOOK?
Y...ES
WOW! SEE? I TOLD YOU!

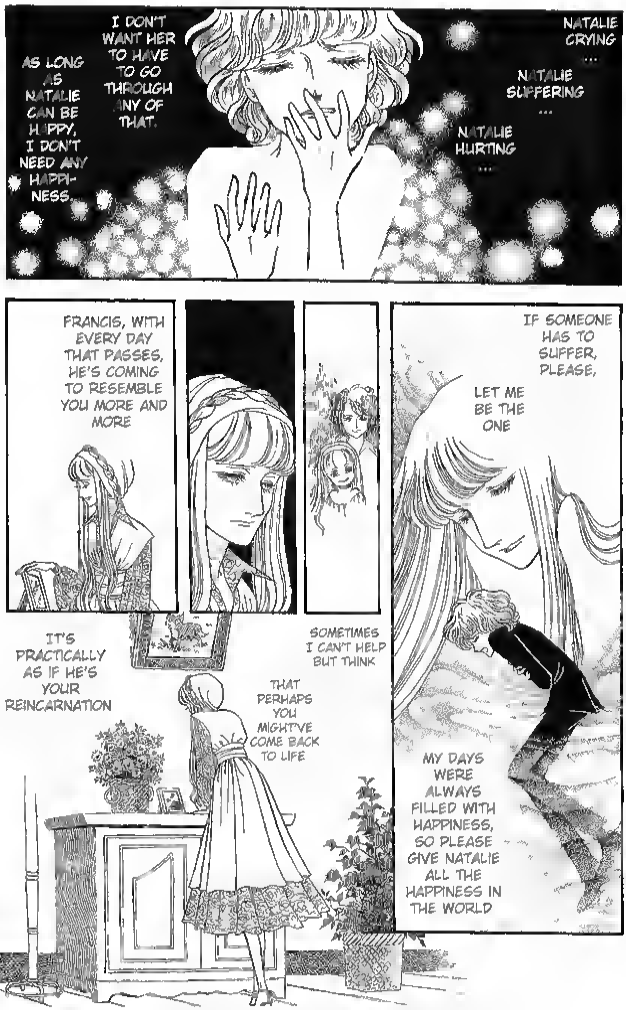
I WONDER IF...I'LL EVER FIND MY PRINCE TOO!
I'VE READ ALL YOUR BOOKS ALREADY, AND I KNOW THEM ALL BY HEART!
I'M IN THE PROCESS OF WRITING MY NEWEST BOOK
FOR EVERY GIRL, THERE'S A PRINCE OUT THERE JUST FOR HER
DON'T WORRY. YOUR PRINCE IS JUST WAITING FOR YOU TO GROW UP.
I WILL SEE YOU SOON, NATALIE.
MAKE SURE TO APOLOGIZE TO YOUR TEACHERS.
HAVE YOU FOUND YOUR PRINCE ALREADY?
YES — I HAVE.


IT REMINDED ME HOW HE'S GOING TO GO OFF AND LIVE HIS OWN LIFE, APART FROM ME ONE DAY.
LISTENING TO HIM TALK ABOUT HIS SCHOOL.
I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT I FEEL A TINGE OF LONELINESS
THANK YOU, ELAINE
I'LL MAKE SURE TO CALL NATALIE
HE'LL FIND SOMEONE WHOM HE CARES FOR MORE THAN ME, AND HE'LL LIVE HIS LIFE FOR HER
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE FALLS IN LOVE
HIS MIND IS ALWAYS FILLED WITH THOUGHTS OF YOU
I CAN'T IMAGINE HIM EVER PARTING FROM YOU
I WONDER IF THESE FEELINGS ARE THE KIND THAT ANY PARENT WOULD FEEL
FOR THE BOY WHO ALWAYS ONLY EVER GAZED AT ME, TO LOOK AT SOMEONE WITH PASSION
IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR THAT TO HAPPEN, AND YET I FEEL LONELY


DO YOU WANT TO BECOME THAT LUCKY PERSON?
WHOEVER BECOMES THE APPLE OF HIS EYE WILL BE TRULY LUCKY
HE'LL GROW UP TO BE A DASHING GENTLEMAN I JUST KNOW IT


MY BEAUTIFUL GUARDIAN
MY HAPPINESS —
MY EYES ALWAYS FOLLOWED NATALIE
MY MIND WAS ALWAYS FILLED WITH THE DESIRE TO BE LOVED BY HER
MY HAPPINESS I COULDN'T IMAGINE IT EXISTING WITHOUT NATALIE
I WOULDN'T EVEN BE CONSIDERED IN HIS EYES, I'M PROBABLY AN OLD MAID.
DON'T BE SILLY
HE'S 17 YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME

Ishouyo Scans

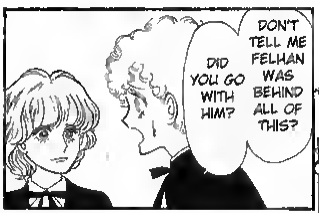

AS LONG AS NATALIE CAN BE HAPPY, I DON'T NEED ANY HAPPINESS.
I DON'T WANT HER TO HAVE TO GO THROUGH ANY OF THAT.
NATALIE CRYING ...
NATALIE SUFFERING ...
NATALIE HURTING ...
FRANCIS, WITH EVERY DAY THAT PASSES, HE'S COMING TO RESEMBLE YOU MORE AND MORE
IT'S PRACTICALLY AS IF HE'S YOUR REINCARNATION
SOMETIMES I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK
THAT PERHAPS YOU MIGHT'VE COME BACK TO LIFE
IF SOMEONE HAS TO SUFFER, PLEASE,
LET ME BE THE ONE
MY DAYS WERE ALWAYS FILLED WITH HAPPINESS, SO PLEASE GIVE NATALIE ALL THE HAPPINESS IN THE WORLD

HE REMINDS ME OF YOU TOO MUCH
IT MAKES ME AFRAID
I CAN'T HELP BUT WISH THAT HE'D STAY WITH ME FOREVER.
I LIED TO ELAINE I DO FEEL JEALOUS OF WHOMEVER HE WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH.
I'M SCARED THAT I MIGHT TIE HIM DOWN,
AND THAT I MIGHT CAUSE HIM TO RUIN HIS LIFE.
I KNOW THAT HE HAS HIS OWN LIFE TO LIVE.
I ALSO KNOW THAT I SHOULDN'T FEEL THIS WAY

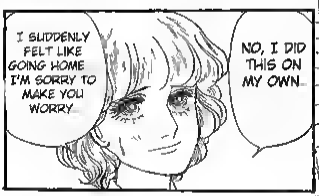
LEAVING THE SCHOOL GROUNDS WITHOUT PERMISSION HAS THE HARSHEST OF CONSE-QUENCES
I UNDER-STAND
AS WELL, YOU'LL HAVE TO SPEND TIME IN THE RE-FLECTION ROOM.
BUT RULES ARE RULES. YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS NEXT WEEK

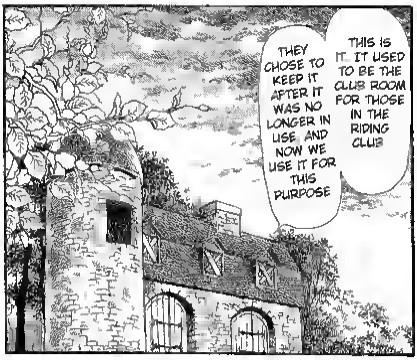
I'M SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE I'VE CAUSED
I'M SUR-PRISED
YOU DID SOME-THING LIKE THIS, TO BE HONEST

I JUST FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT YOU WOULD DO THIS WITHOUT GOOD REASON
IF SOMETHING HAPPENED THAT LED YOU TO THIS THEN LET ME KNOW


DON'T TELL ME FELHAN WAS BEHIND ALL OF THIS?
DID YOU GO WITH HIM?

IT'S NOTH-ING...
FRANCIS! WHERE'D YOU GO?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU JUST UPPED AND LEFT!


I SUDDENLY FELT LIKE GOING HOME I'M SORRY TO MAKE YOU WORRY
NO, I DID THIS ON MY OWN.

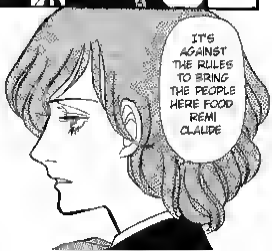

THIS IS IT. IT USED TO BE THE CLUB ROOM FOR THOSE IN THE RIDING CLUB
THEY CHOSE TO KEEP IT AFTER IT WAS NO LONGER IN USE, AND NOW WE USE IT FOR THIS PURPOSE

GRRRRRR

OKAY
A PRIEST (AND I SUPPOSE)
YOU'VE GOT SOME COMPANY, BUT MAKE SURE TO NOT CAUSE A RUCKUS
IF YOU BECOME BORED WE HAVE A BIBLE HERE, SO FEEL FREE TO READ IT

Y-YES, I KNOW!

I'LL COME AND BRING YOU SOME FOOD LATER!
THEY ONLY FEED YOU BREAD AND WATER HERE!


IT'S AGAINST THE RULES TO BRING THE PEOPLE HERE FOOD REMI CLAUDE

THIS PLACE SUCKS. THERE'S NOT EVEN A BED OR TABLE.
IT'S NOT A PLACE FIT FOR HUMANS.
YO.
I'M SORRY, THIS IS MY ENTIRE FAULT.
OH GET OVER YOUR-SELF.
DO I LOOK LIKE SOMEONE WITH A HEART OF GOLD TO YOU?
YOU KNOW THAT THE PERSON YOU'RE ROOMMATES WITH IS GONNA GET PUNISHED TOO NO MATTER WHAT, RIGHT? SO THERE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANY POINT IN YOU BEING A GOODY-GOODY AND STAYING HERE
I WANTED TO GO AND HANG OUT WITH SOME PEOPLE. SO ALL I DID WAS TAKE YOU ALONG WITH ME
YEAH, YOU DO ACTUALLY!
Oh, really?

NOT AT ALL
DO I HAVE SOMETHING ON MY FACE OR WHAT?!
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?!
IT'S A WASTE OF TIME TRYING TO CONVINCE YOU OTHERWISE!
HAH!
THINK WHAT YOU WANT
Chuckle
HE REALLY IS KIND
HE'S JUST A BIT MORE BASHFUL THAN YOUR AVERAGE PERSON
THE MASS WILL BE STARTING SOON, SO YOU BETTER GET GOING
FRANCIS DEALLBERGE
YOUR TIME IS UP!
CREAAK

YOU DREW THE WORST OF THE DECK TO HAVE TO BE ROOM-MATES WITH HIM.
HE'S A BRINGER OF BAD LUCK LET ME TELL YOU
WHY HELLO THERE FELHAN UP TO YOUR USUAL ANTICS I SEE?
YOU MUST LIKE BEING IN HERE VERY MUCH
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?
IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME HERE, PLUS, YOU'RE PROBABLY IN HERE BECAUSE OF FELHAN. WE'RE WELL AWARE OF THAT. SO WE'RE LETTING YOU OFF EASY
HIS TIME ISN'T UP YET
U-Um what about Felhan?
WHY WOULDN'T IT BE RIGHT? THERE'S NO WAY THAT A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING LIKE HIM SHOULD BE ABLE TO LEAVE THIS ROOM RIGHT AWAY.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING I'M JUST SAYING IT'S NOT RIGHT FOR HIM TO HAVE TO STAY HERE WHEN I DON'T?
HE'S BROKEN THE SCHOOL RULES MANY TIMES BEFORE. HE SHOULD JUST FEEL LUCKY HE HASN'T BEEN EXPELLED YET
UPSET
THE RULES HERE ARE THAT ROOMMATES HAVE TO SUFFER THE SAME PUNISHMENT RIGHT? THEN WHY DO I GET TO LEAVE BEFORE HIM?
BUT I WAS THE ONE WHO LEFT THE SCHOOL GROUNDS WITHOUT PERMISSION
YOU'RE A STRANGE ONE DON'T YOU WANT TO LEAVE?

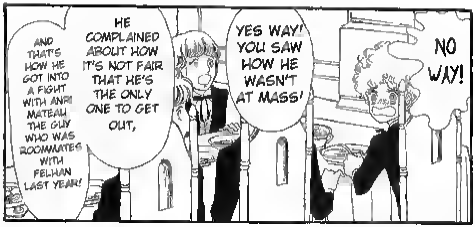
I CAN TELL YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY BEST BUDDIES WITH HIM, BUT THAT'S NO REASON TO TALK SO BADLY ABOUT HIM!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
YOU'VE BEEN SAYING REALLY MEAN THINGS ABOUT FELHAN EVER SINCE YOU CAME IN HERE!
THANKS TO HIM, I HAD TO SPEND MOST OF MY TIME LAST YEAR IN HERE BECAUSE I WOUND UP GETTING HIM AS A ROOMMATE!
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT! I HATE THIS GUY!
OH, SO JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE OLDER THAN ME, THAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO TREAT PEOPLE THAT WAY?
WHAT NERVE! DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN TALK TO ME THAT WAY? I'M IN THIRD YEAR, YOU KNOW!
IT'S OKAY, FRANCIS
JUST GO ALREADY.
OR ARE YOU SO STARVED FOR FOOD THAT YOU CAN'T UTTER A SINGLE WORD?
DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY, FELHAN?
WE SHOULD JUST GET EXPELLED ALREADY, AND WE CAN BE RID OF THIS TRASH!
HE COULDN'T CARE LESS HOW HIS ACTIONS AFFECT OTHERS!

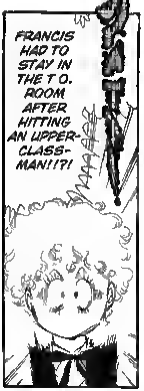
SO WHAT DO YOU SAY FELHAN?
OKAY, HOW DOES THIS SOUND? IF YOU GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES AND APOLOGIZE FOR YOUR ACTIONS UP 'TIL NOW, I CAN CONVINCE THEM TO LET YOU LEAVE THIS ROOM EARLY
YOU DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO SPEND A SECOND MORE THAN YOU NEED TO IN THIS ROOM, AM I RIGHT?
GET YOUR DIRTY HAND OFF ME.
YOU BETTER GET GOING OR YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE FOR MASS
HEY YOU, THE NEW SERVANT! YOUR TIME'S UP!
I SAID GET OUT OF MY FACE

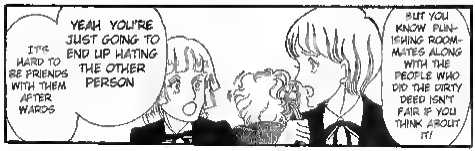
SLAP
YEAH, WHAT FELHAN DID TO YOU WASN'T EXACTLY NICE, BUT YOU'RE EVEN WORSE!
YOU'RE A ROTTEN PERSON!
REMEMBER WHAT YOU JUST SAID!
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT I SAID OR DID
IF YOU WANT TO HIT ME BACK GO RIGHT AHEAD
I'M GOING TO STAY IN HERE AS PUNISHMENT FOR HITTING AN UPPERCLASSMAN!
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!

THIS,
STOP IT YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH DAMAGE
PUNCH
SLAP
SLAP
HE'S GONNA LAND ME ANOTHER TWO DAYS IN HERE
OR MAYBE IT'S 3 DAYS?
SMACK
J-JUST YOU WAIT!
HA! I'M TIRED OF LISTENING TO YOUR EMPTY THREATS

THANKS
YOU'RE BLEEDING
I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION.
ARE YOU STUPID OR WHAT?
I DON'T CARE ROOMMATES GET THE SAME PUNISHMENT, SO YOU'LL BE HERE RIGHT ALONGSIDE ME ANYWAY
I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU
AND JUST WHEN I WAS THINKING YOU WERE A GOODY-TWO SHOED MOMMY'S BOY
I NEVER KNEW HE COULD MAKE SUCH A KIND EXPRESSION
IT'S MY FIRST TIME SEEING HIM LIKE THIS
CHUCKLES
I'VE GOTTEN SENT IN HERE MORE TIMES THAN I CARE TO REMEMBER, BUT IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER GOTTEN A STAY EXTENDED
HAHAHA I GIVE UP


AND THAT'S HOW HE GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH ANRI MATEAU THE GUY WHO WAS ROOMMATES WITH FELHAN LAST YEAR!
HE COMPLAINED ABOUT HOW IT'S NOT FAIR THAT HE'S THE ONLY ONE TO GET OUT,
YES WAY! YOU SAW HOW HE WASN'T AT MASS!
NO WAY!


FRANCIS HAD TO STAY IN THE T.O. ROOM AFTER HITTING AN UPPER-CLASSMAN!!?!


IT'S HARD TO BE FRIENDS WITH THEM AFTERWARDS
YEAH. YOU'RE JUST GOING TO END UP HATING THE OTHER PERSON
BUT YOU KNOW PUNISHING ROOMMATES ALONG WITH THE PEOPLE WHO DID THE DIRTY DEED ISN'T FAIR IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT!

THEY'RE QUICK TO SPREAD GOSSIP, BUT THEY DO HONESTLY LIKE FELHAN
PLUS, FRANCIS IS A NICE KID.
WORD SPREADS FAST, I SEE.

IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S THEIR HERO.
HE JUST DOES WHAT THEY WISH THEY COULD DO.
WHEN WE HAVE TO SPEND OUR DAYS COOPED UP IN HERE LIKE THIS, EVERYONE AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER WISHES THEY COULD ACT OUT LIKE FELHAN DOES

I HEARD THAT FRANCIS TOOK A SWING AT HIM!
AND THEN, ANRI PUNCHED HIM BACK!
THEN FELHAN JOINED THE FIGHT!

AS LONG AS HE'S A STUDENT AT VAUGHN ROZE HE HAS TO FOLLOW THE RULES SET BY THIS SCHOOL
EVEN IF HE MIGHT NOT NECESSARILY AGREE WITH THEM, HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ABIDING BY THOSE RULES
IF HE ISN'T CAPABLE OF DOING THAT, THEN HE HAS NO RIGHT TO BE A STUDENT HERE
I CAN JUST IMAGINE WHAT A COMMOTION OUR DORM MEETING'S GOING TO BE TODAY!
AARK'S PISSED THERE'S NO DOUBT AROUT THAT!
IT'S NOT RIGHT
WELL, OF COURSE YOU MIGHT THINK THAT SINCE YOU CAN BE A BIT UP-TIGHT WHEN IT COMES TO STUFF LIKE THAT
BUT TO BE HONEST WITH YOU SOME-TIMES I WISH I COULD BE—
Sorry...
FRANCIS IS AN IMPERTI-NENT BRAT TOO, BUT FELHAN IS EVEN WORSE!
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I HAD TO GO THROUGH HAVING TO BE HIS ROOM-MATE LAST YEAR!
INSTEAD OF APOLOGIZING FOR THE TROUBLE HE CAUSED ME, HE TAKES A SWING AT ME! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?!
HE SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER SCHOOL! EVERYONE HERE KNOWS WHAT HE'S LIKE!
HE SHOULD BE EXPELLED, THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO PUT IT!

WHAT IS BEING DISCUSSED RIGHT NOW IS REGARDS TO THEIR PUNISHMENT. THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO RESORT TO NAME CALLING
I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO WHAT YOU'VE HAD TO SAY, BUT SO FAR, YOU'VE ONLY BEEN SPEAKING ABOUT YOUR OWN PERSONAL HATRED TOWARDS HIM
B-Burt
EXPELLING HIM IS THE ONLY WAY TO—
B-Burt I'm not finished yet
THAT'S ENOUGH, ANRI MATEAU. SIT DOWN.
WHEN HE DID NOT RESPOND TO THAT ABUSE, NEXT, YOU TRIED TO EXTORT AN APOLOGY OUT OF HIM.
AS SOON AS YOU WENT INTO THAT ROOM, YOU VERBALLY ABUSED FELHAN
AND YOU'RE FORGETTING SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
HE HAD MULTIPLE BRUISES ON HIS FACE.
AFTER THAT, YOU BECAME ANGRY, AND HIT FRANCIS SEVERAL TIMES.
FRANCIS BECAME UPSET ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID, AND HE HIT YOU
T-THAT'S NOT TRUE, I NEVER—

NOISE
NOISE
NOISE
I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TWO YEARS AGO!
I KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU AND FELHAN!
WEIGHING ALL THAT'S HAPPENED, IT CAN'T BE SAID THAT THEY'RE THE ONLY ONES AT FAULT
H-ah...I'm surprised...
THAT YOU WOULD TAKE FELHAN'S SIDE.
I THOUGHT FOR SURE THAT YOU HATED HIM.
OR WAS I WRONG?
Ishouyo Scans

Shoujo Scans
Credits
Translator
Oceansportrait
Proofreader
Mars
Cleaner
Oceansportrait
Typesetter
Oceansportrait
QCer
Vally
Chapter 8
Suna no Shiro

YOUR MOTHER AND FELHAN'S FATHER —
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE PARTICIPATING IN THIS MEETING ANY LONGER!
YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR! ANRI MATEAU! LEAVE, NOW!

I ASSUME NO ONE HAS ANY OBJECTIONS TO THIS?
THROUGH MY POWERS AS THE ASSISTANT DORM MANAGER, I REVOKE YOUR RIGHTS AS A GROUP LEADER
IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO LET SOMEONE WHO CAN ONLY ACT OUT OF EMOTION TO BE A GROUP LEADER
HAH!
WHO WANTS A STUPID JOB LIKE THIS ANYWAY!
NOW LEAVE!
AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD SHOULD ACT LIKE THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILD HE IS!
DON'T ACT LIKE YOU'RE SOME BIG HOT-SHOT, EDWIN!

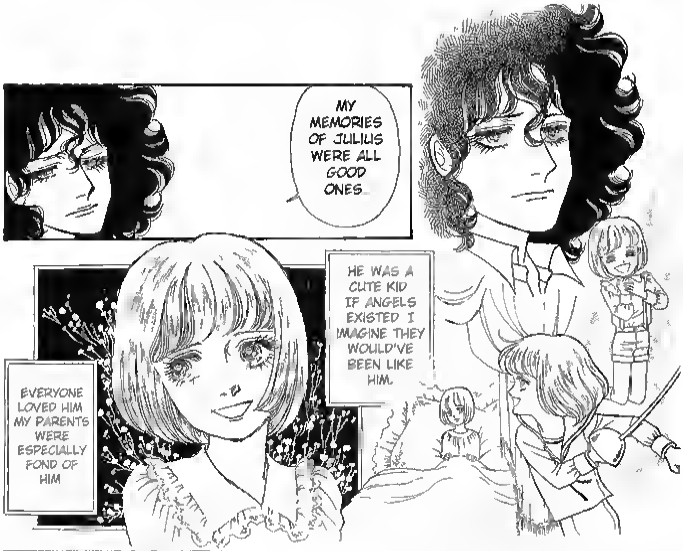
HEY, EDWIN LOOKS REALLY P.I.E.
BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT... LOOKING AT THEIR HAIR...
THEN WHAT HE SAID JUST NOW'S TRUE...?
WELL YEAH, IF THEY HAVE THE SAME DAD.
Then does that mean Felhan and Edwin are brothers!?!
WHAT!?
Yeah, but who would've thought
MAL
YOU READ WHAT YOU SOW
IF YOU WANT TO FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF IF WHAT I SAID IS THE TRUTH OR NOT... THEN ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LOOK AT EDWIN'S FACE
HAH!

SO WHAT, EDWIN'S MOTHER WAS FELHAN'S DAD'S MISTRESS?!
DOES FELHAN KNOW ABOUT THIS?
STOP IT!
HE PROBABLY DOES! THAT'S WHY HE ALWAYS TREATS EDWIN THE W..Y HE DOES!
YEAH, BUT IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN —
STOP IT!
STOP IT!
GRAB
WE'LL CONTINUE WITH THIS MEETING ANOTHER TIME I'LL INFORM YOU WHEN WE SET A NEW TIME
DON'T BE SWAYED BY HIS WORDS AND GO AROUND SPREADING CRUEL RUMOURS.
O-Okay—
Bye..
Clatter

WE'LL CONTINUE WITH THE MEETING.
EVERY-ONE TO YOUR SEATS.
WE'VE RECEIVED NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS REGARDING THIS POLICY IN THE PAST.
IF WE ARE ABLE TO COME TO A UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT ON THE ISSUE WE WILL DISCUSS THIS WITH THE TEACHERS AND WORK TOWARDS EXTERMINATING THIS POLICY
WE WILL HAVE A VOTE REGARDING OUR SCHOOL POLICY TO PUNISH ROOMMATES ALONGSIDE THE PERPETRA-TORS
Edwin —
WE'LL COM-MENCE OUR VOTE
HAVE A SEAT
THAT IS ALL.
AND ANRI MATEAU WILL HAVE HIS RIGHTS AS A GROUP LEADER REVOKED
FELHAN KHRELE AND FRANCIS DEALIB-ERGE ARE TO BE RELEASED AT SUNSET.
AS WE WERE ABLE TO REACH A UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT WE WILL BE REQUESTING FOR THIS ISSUE TO BE BROUGHT UP AT THE NEXT STAFF MEETING

I HAVE NO IDEA BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE HE KEPT HIS COOL
I MEAN, IF THAT WERE ME I WOULDVE JUST SNAPPED YOU KNOW?
DO YOU THINK WHAT HE SAID IS TRUE?
YEAH, BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, EDWIN AND FELHAN DON'T LOOK ANYTHING ALIKE!
YEAH, BUT STILL
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW HE STAYED SO CALM AFTER WHAT WAS SAID ABOUT HIM!
COULD YOU JUST LEAVE ME BE, EVIAN?
WAIT, EDWIN!
EDWIN!
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME,
I HAVE TO TAKE THIS TO THE STAFF ROOM.
I'M NOT LOOKING FOR YOUR PITY
NO MATTER WHAT THE TRUTH OF THE SITUATION IS IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU OR ANYONE ELSE FOR THAT MATTER.

NO, THAT'S NOT WHY I ASKED!
SO, YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS PLACE?
IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE JUST CRY AND APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT YOU DID
I WONDER WHAT TIME IT IS.
NO LIGHT COMES IN THROUGH HERE SO I CAN'T TELL IF IT'S NIGHT OR DAY
OH GREAT I'M SO ECSTATIC I COULD CRY
IT'S JUST I HAVE NOTHING TO DO. I'M SO BORED
WANT ME TO READ YOU SOMETHING OUT OF THE BIBLE?
ARE YOU OKAY WITH LOOKING AT ME...?
Well...
Um...
WHAT?
SO I JUST THOUGHT... I MIGHT BE CAUSING YOU TO SUFFER BY CONJURING UP MEMORIES YOU'D RATHER NOT REMEMBER...
MR LANBERRE SAID YOU CARED ABOUT HIM VERY MUCH...
I.. REMIND YOU OF YOUR BROTHER, DON'T I?


MY MEMORIES OF JULIUS WERE ALL GOOD ONES...
HE WAS A CUTE KID IF ANGELS EXISTED I IMAGINE THEY WOULD'VE BEEN LIKE HIM.
EVERYONE LOVED HIM MY PARENTS WERE ESPECIALLY FOND OF HIM

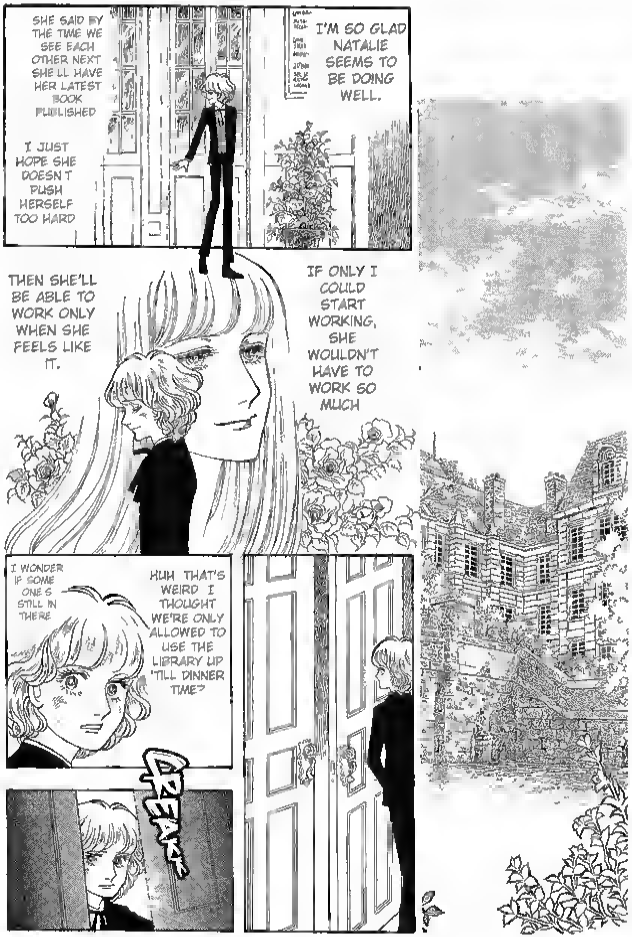
YOU MUST'VE BEEN VERY FOND OF HIM.
I COULDN'T BE A STUPID BROTHER TO HIM, YOU KNOW?
YOU PROBABLY WOULD'VE NEVER GUESSED... BUT I WAS PRETTY STRAIGHT-LACED WAY BACK WHEN

HIS BODY WAS WEAK THOUGH, SO ONE COMMON COLD WOULD PUT HIM OUT FOR WEEKS

THEY ARE OUT THERE THOUGH.
SAME FOR THE OTHER WAY AROUND TOO...
OH, THAT CAN'T BE TRUE
NO PARENT COULD EVER HATE THEIR CHILD
I WASN'T EXACTLY LIKED...
WELL, YEAH, SURE
IT'S ALSO TRUE THOUGH THAT THEY WOULD'VE BEEN HAPPIER HAD I DIED INSTEAD OF HIM.

YEAH... MAYBE THAT'S JUST PROOF THAT THIS IS ALL JUST RUMOURS?
BUT HE'S BEEN ACTING LIKE HIS NORMAL SELF
CAUSE LIKE, COME ON HIM AND FELHAN, BROTHERS?
MAYBE THE REASON WHY HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING WAS BECAUSE IT WAS SUCH A STUPID LIE?
FLINCH
ME AND WHO?
LET ME BORROW YOUR NOTES FROM TODAY'S CLASS LATER, OKAY?
I'M GONNA GO AND MAKE A PHONE CALL.
WHERE YOU GOING, FRANCIS?
BUT TODAY'S A LITTLE DIFFER-ENT.
I'VE GOTTEN USED TO PEOPLE STARING AT ME,
U-Um... I- it's nothing.
I-I just overheard him saying it from outside the window!
I-It was Ann who said it!
YEAH, SURE YOU DON'T SMART-ASS
I-I don't know a thing!

WELL, COUGH IT UP OR DO I NEED TO MAKE YOU?
I-I'll spill...
H-He said how Edwin's mother was... your father's mistress...
a-and... that you two are probably related.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH EFFORT I PUT INTO BRUSHING THEIR WORDS AWAY,
THEY STICK TO ME LIKE SECOND SKIN.
I'M SO TIRED...
THE WOUND SPREADS.


I'M SO GLAD NATALIE SEEMS TO BE DOING WELL.
SHE SAID BY THE TIME WE SEE EACH OTHER NEXT SHE'LL HAVE HER LATEST BOOK PUBLISHED
I JUST HOPE SHE DOESN'T PUSH HERSELF TOO HARD
IF ONLY I COULD START WORKING, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORK SO MUCH
THEN SHE'LL BE ABLE TO WORK ONLY WHEN SHE FEELS LIKE IT.
HUH THAT'S WEIRD I THOUGHT WE'RE ONLY ALLOWED TO USE THE LIBRARY UP 'TILL DINNER TIME?
I WONDER IF SOME ONE'S STILL IN THERE
CREAK

WOULD YOU MIND LEAVING ME ALONE?
IS ANYONE IN HERE?
CLICK
EDWIN ?
PERFECT TIMING! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GO FIND YOU TO SAY THANK YOU.
I HEARD THAT YOU STOOD UP FOR ME!
I'M SORRY TO CAUSE YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE!
I DIDN'T DO IT FOR YOU

I-I'm sorry If I'm bothering you, then I'll just—
B-BUT YOU LOOK REALLY PALE
U-UM.. IS EVERY-THING OKAY?
IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL I CAN GO CALL ONE OF THE TEACHERS
IT'S NOTH-ING
HOW IRRI-TAT-ING
YOU'RE THE SAME AS THE REST OF THEM!
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW SO MUCH, THEN I'LL TELL YOU!!
What do you mean?
What?
WHAT IS IT THAT YOU CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TO ASK ME?
THAT'S RIGHT! FELHAN AND I ARE BROTHERS!

NOW GO! LEAVE ME BE!
HAS THAT SATISFIED YOUR CURIOSITY ?!
IT'S JUST AS ANRI SAID! MY MOTHER WAS FELHAN'S FATHER'S MISTRESS !
NOW GO!
TELL THEM THAT THE STRAIGHT-LACED DORM MANAGER WAS A SON BORN OUT OF WED-LOCK!
GO OUT INTO THE HALLS AND YELL OUT THE TRUTH TO THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD!
I-I didn't know..
Fran..

I'm sorry for making you say what you least wanted to say
I-I'm sorry I didn't mean to intrude
You hadn't heard?
FRA-NCIS!
I'm sorry
I-I'm not good at reading people at all
and I always end up touching people's open wounds without meaning to
WOULD YOU MIND STAYING HERE WITH ME FOR A LITTLE LONGER?
I WON'T TELL ANYONE WHAT YOU TOLD ME

OH NO
MY TEMPER'S A BIT SHORT TODAY.
I'M SORRY
SO THAT'S WHY EVERYONE WAS ACTING STRANGE AT THE DINING HALL
TO THINK SOMEONE LIKE EDWIN, WHO NEVER SHOWED HIS WEAK SIDE TO OTHERS, COULD BECOME LIKE THIS
THIS IS THE KIND OF STUFF NO ONE WOULD EVER WANT TO HAPPEN TO THEM SO WHY WOULD THEY GO AROUND SPREADING THESE RUMOURS?
THEY KNOW HAVING THE WHOLE SCHOOL KNOW WOULD ONLY HURT HIM, AND YET—
"WE DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU BECAUSE WE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE PAIN YOU'RE GOING THROUGH NOW."
OH—
SO THAT'S WHY THEY
Jshoujo
scans

I NEVER REALIZED THEIR SINCERITY, OR KINDNESS I TOOK IT ALL FOR GRANTED.
BUT THEY KEPT QUIET FOR MY SAKE
NATALIE, ELAINE, AND MR. ROBERT, THEY PROBABLY ALL KNEW
OH, SO THE TRUTH OF THE SITUATION IS, I'VE GROWN UP BEING PROTECTED BY THESE PEOPLE.
EDWIN PROBABLY HAD TO BOTTLE UP WITHIN HIMSELF ALL THE BAD THINGS.
AND HE'S LIVED HIS LIFE UP UNTIL NOW SILENCING HIS EMOTIONS
THAT'S WHY HE'S ABLE TO ACT THE WAY HE DOES
I'M SO EMBARRASSED
I'VE ALWAYS HAD PEOPLE AROUND ME WHO'VE CARED FOR ME AND MY WELL-BEING
COMPARED TO EDWIN, MY PAIN IS NOTHING
I ACTED AS IF I'M THE ONLY ONE BEING HURT. AND I CAUSED TROUBLE FOR EVERYONE AROUND ME.

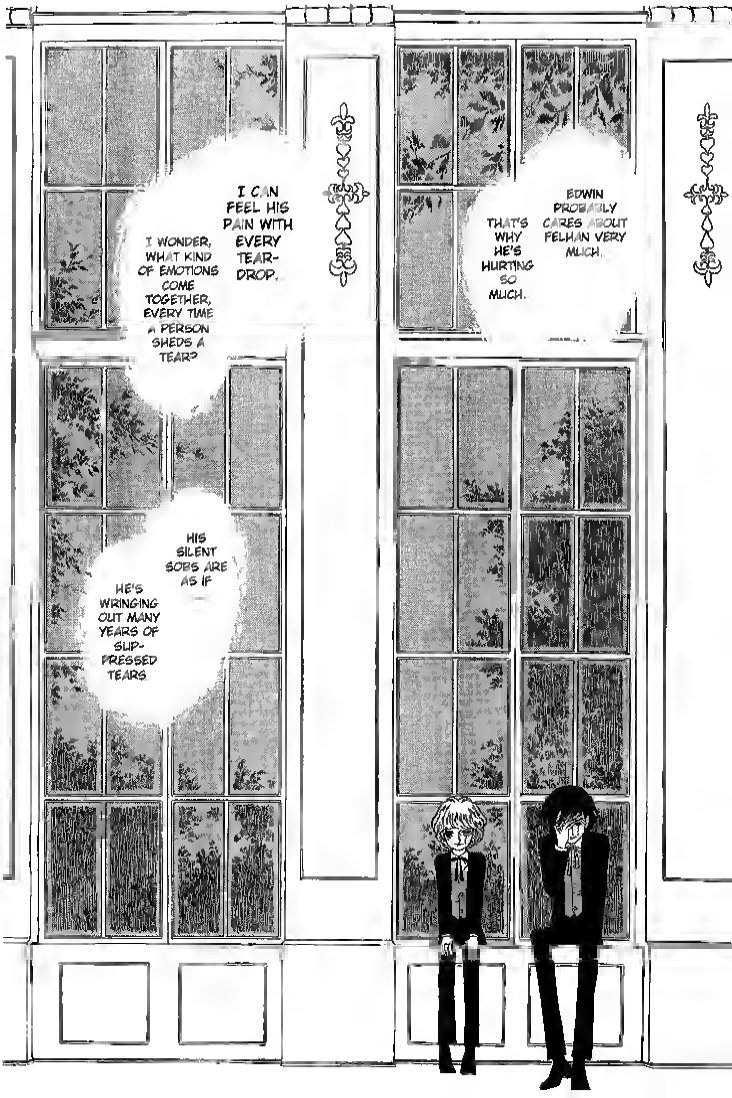
SURE
IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU, WOULD IT BE OKAY IF WE TALK FOR A BIT?
IT'S STRANGE
I PROBABLY WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO ACT NORMALLY
IF YOU WEREN'T THE ONE TO COME IN HERE
OH YEAH, WHEN'S THE BIO REPORT DUE ANYWAY?
MAYBE HE WENT TO THE BATHROOM?
HE SAID HE WANTED TO BORROW MY NOTES BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND HIM
HEY, HAVE YOU SEEN FRANCIS?
I THOUGHT HE DIDN'T COME HOME THAT OFTEN BECAUSE HE WAS A BUSY MAN
BUT UNTIL MY FATHER PASSED AWAY, I ALWAYS THOUGHT MY PARENTS WERE AN OFFICIALLY MARRIED COUPLE
THIS WILL PROBABLY COME OFF AS ODD

FELHAN'S MOTHER WAS MY FATHER'S FIANCEE SINCE THEY WERE YOUNG
MY FATHER LOVED MY MOTHER, BUT THOSE AROUND HIM WERE ADAMANT ON HIM MARRYING FELHAN'S MOTHER. HE COULDN'T "TAN" UP TO THEM, AND WAS FORCED TO MARRY HER INSTEAD OF MY MOTHER. AT AROUND THE SAME TIME FELHAN AND I WERE BORN
EVEN THEN THOUGH, HE WAS A WONDERFUL FATHER TO ME
I LOOKED UP TO HIM, AND I LOVED HIM
TO FELHAN'S MOTHER, HE MUST HAVE COME ACROSS AS A TERRIBLE HUSBAND EVEN AFTER THEY HAD MARRIED, HE CONTINUED TO SEE MY MOTHER
I LOVED HIM—
I LOVE HIM—
I HEARD THAT HE GOT INTO AN ACCIDENT
RIGHT AFTER HE LEFT AFTER HAVING GOTTEN INTO A TERRIBLE FIGHT WITH HIS WIFE OVER ME AND MY MOTHER.
MY FATHER'S LAWYER CAME TO OUR HOUSE AND HE DID EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER FOR US
IN RETURN I WAS MADE TO HEAR THE TRUTH
BECAUSE FELHAN AND I WERE SUCH GOOD RIVALS,
IT CAME AS ALL THE MORE SHOCK TO ME

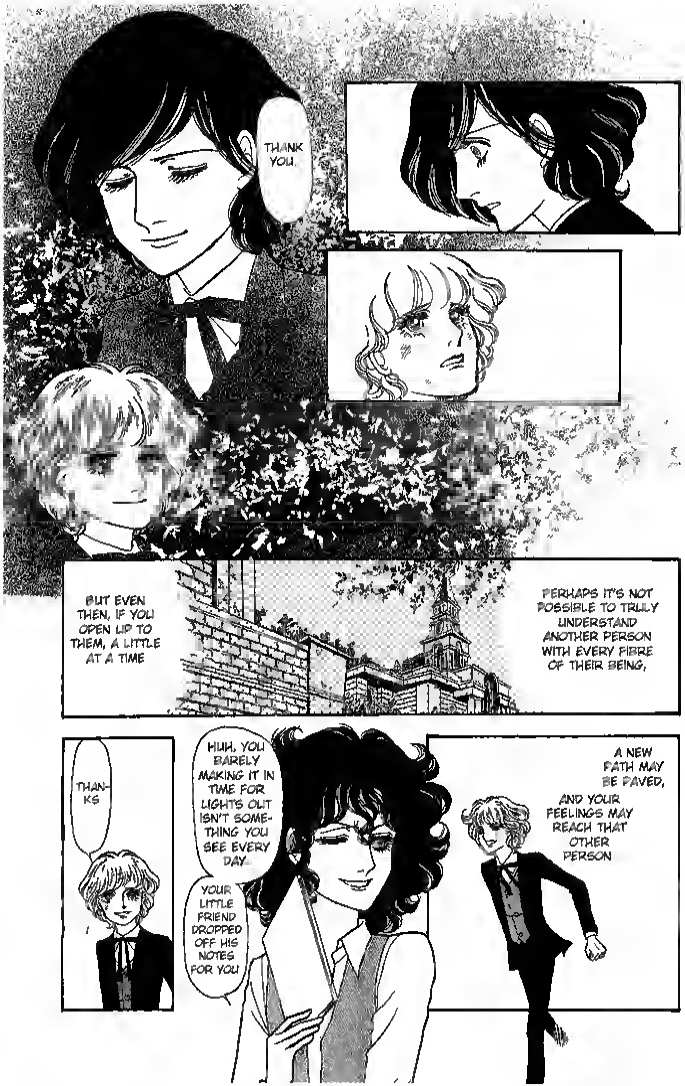
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVER EXPERIENCED WHAT IT FELT LIKE TO BE THE SON OF A MISTRESS
ON A RAINY DAY—
I WATCHED MY FATHER'S FUNERAL FROM A DISTANCE ALONE
FELHAN BECAME MORE AND MORE REBELLIOUS AFTER THAT.
AND BEFORE THE MONTH WAS UP, HE HAD BECOME A DELINQUENT NO ONE COULD HANDLE
FELHAN WILL NEVER FORGIVE ME NOR WILL HE FORGIVE MY MOTHER.
THINGS WOULD NEVER BE THE SAME BETWEEN ME AND HIM EVER AGAIN.
I SAW FELHAN STANDING BESIDE THE COFFIN
I COULDN'T STOP THE TEARS THAT WERE RUNNING DOWN MY FACE
EVERYTHING JUST JUMBLED TOGETHER INTO AN INCOHERENT MESS. BUT WITHIN ALL THIS, ONE THING WAS CLEAR.
THE PICTURE OF MY MOTHER CRYING AT HOME, AND OF FELHAN CIRCLED ROUND AND ROUND IN MY HEAD

I THOUGHT ABOUT TRANSFERRING MANY TIMES. BUT IT WAS ALWAYS MY FATHER'S WORDS THAT STOPPED ME
THIS WAS THE SCHOOL MY FATHER ATTENDED. HE LOVED THIS SCHOOL.
AND ALSO IT WAS MY MOTHER'S WISH THAT I CONTINUE ATTENDING.
MY MOTHER HAS ONLY ME LEFT NOW
SO I HAVE TO BECOME SOMEONE STRONG ENOUGH TO PROTECT HER
I'M WELL AWARE OF THAT
HE'S YOUR BROTHER, THOUGH, ISN'T HE?
CAN'T YOU LOVE HIM? HE'S A REALLY NICE GUY!
I COULD TELL FELHAN'S PARENTS WEREN'T VERY FOND OF HIM
JUST FROM THE WAY HE ACTED
STILL, HE SAID THIS TO ME A LONG TIME AGO.
THAT HE LOVED HIS FATHER VERY MUCH
BUT IT'S NOT A PROBLEM OF ME BEING INCAPABLE OF LOVING HIM—
IT'S THAT HE'S INCAPABLE OF LOVING ME
I'M THE PERSON HE HATES THE MOST

ALL I CAN DO FOR HIM IS TO ACT THE ROLE OF SOMEONE WHO HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM.
WE'RE CLASSMATES WHO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH EACH OTHER.
FORGET LOVE, FORGET FAMILY. EVERYTHING IS WIPED CLEAN BEFORE ANY OF THAT BECOMES AN ISSUE
I'M SORRY
I DIDN'T THINK I WAS STILL CAPABLE OF CRYING
I NEVER THOUGHT I STILL HAD THESE EMOTIONS IN ME.
IT'S OKAY
YOU REMIND ME OF A TIME WHEN I WAS THE MOST HONEST WITH MY FEELINGS
FOR FELHAN
IT'S PROBABLY THE SAME
HE GAZES AT YOU WITH VERY KIND EYES.


I WONDER, WHAT KIND OF EMOTIONS COME TOGETHER, EVERY TIME A PERSON SHEDS A TEAR?
I CAN FEEL HIS PAIN WITH EVERY TEAR-DROP.
HE'S WRINGING OUT MANY YEARS OF SUP-PRESSED TEARS
HIS SILENT SOBS ARE AS IF
THAT'S WHY HE'S HURTING SO MUCH.
EDWIN PROBABLY CARES ABOUT FELHAN VERY MUCH.

I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO LISTEN TO ALL OF THAT
DING-DONG
I... LOOK UP TO YOU VERY MUCH
I LOOK UP TO YOU, NOT ONLY AS A CLASSMATE, BUT AS A HUMAN BEING.
EVEN IF SOMEONE TALKS BADLY OF YOU, IT'S ONLY BECAUSE THEY'RE JEALOUS OF YOU.
YOU'RE A WONDERFUL PERSON AND I CAN ONLY EVER DREAM OF BECOMING HALF THE PERSON YOU ARE


THANK YOU.
PERHAPS IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO TRULY UNDERSTAND ANOTHER PERSON WITH EVERY FIBRE OF THEIR BEING,
BUT EVEN THEN, IF YOU OPEN UP TO THEM, A LITTLE AT A TIME
A NEW PATH MAY BE PAVED,
AND YOUR FEELINGS MAY REACH THAT OTHER PERSON
HUH, YOU BARELY MAKING IT IN TIME FOR LIGHTS OUT ISN'T SOMETHING YOU SEE EVERY DAY.
YOUR LITTLE FRIEND DROPPED OFF HIS NOTES FOR YOU
THANKS

HOW'D YOU TAKE IT?
YEAH
YOU'VE HEARD 'BOUT WHAT'S BEEN GOING AROUND I'M GUESSING?
YOU KNOW ABOUT ME AND THE DORM MANAGER BEING RELATED AND SHIT?
WHAT?
YOU THINK?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN HOW I TAKE IT YOU KNOW YOU SHOULDN'T BE ACTING SO NONCHALANTLY ABOUT IT
WHAT THEY'VE BEEN SAYING ABOUT YOU TWO HAVEN'T BEEN EXACTLY FLATTERING
ME AND EDWIN, BROTHERS? WHAT A RIOT, RIGHT?
HEY... CUT IT OUT DON'T TALK THAT WAY
HA HA HA, YEAH ME AND EDWIN WE'RE TIGHT!
YOU'D BE HARD PRESSED TO FIND BROTHERS WHO DON'T GET ALONG AS MUCH AS US
RUNNING INTO HIM LEAVES ME PISSED OFF FOR THE REST OF THE DAY
THANKS TO HIM, I CAN BE DRUNK ON HATRED ALL YEAR ROUND

WELL, MAYBE THIS MEANS NOTHING TO YOU, BUT TO EDWIN—
HOW CAN YOU TAKE THAT KIND OF ATTITUDE ABOUT THIS?
I SAID, CUT IT OUT!
HA HA HA HA!
BY THE NEXT DAY THERE WASN'T A STUDENT AT SCHOOL WHO HADN'T HEARD THE RUMOUR
STILL, EDWIN ACTED AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED.
REMI CLAUDE READ THE NEXT LINE
IT WAS THE SAME WITH FELHAN
WHAT ABOUT HIM?
AT U...
NOTHING I'M GOING TO BED
GNIGHT

OUR DAYS WERE BUSY, FILLED WITH HOMEWORK, CLASS, AND TUTORIALS.
AND OUR INTERESTS FLITTED TO WHATEVER WAS THE LATEST HAPPENING AT OUR SCHOOL.
DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE REPORT!
SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!
AND BEFORE ANYONE KNEW IT, IT WAS LOCKED AWAY AS ONE OF THE SCHOOL SECRETS
BUT BY THE END OF THE WEEK, THE RUMOUR HAD FADED FROM EVERYONE'S LIPS.
HEY, LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HERE. YOU BETTER GO
NAH
FELHAN ARE YOU GOING HOME?
NATALIE'S COMING TO PICK ME UP. I BETTER GET GOING
WELL, NO DUH! MY BAN FROM LEAVING THE SCHOOL GROUNDS FOR THE WEEKEND'S UP!
WELL, YOU SEEM HAPPY.
Francis!

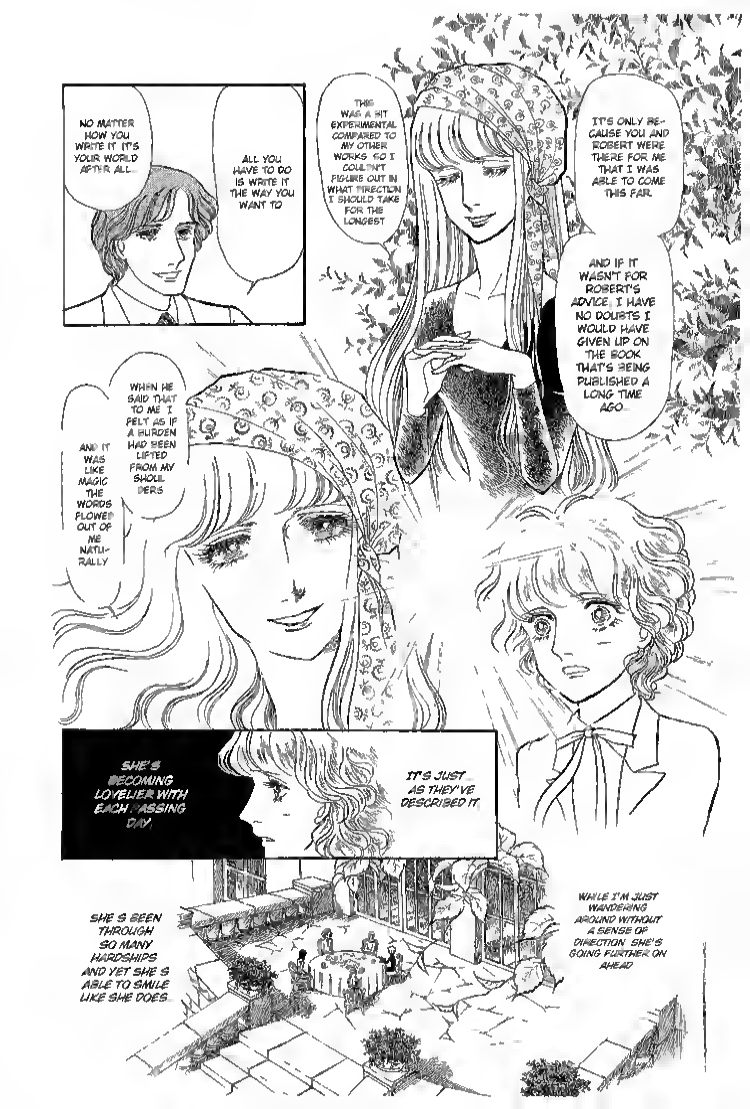
HOW DO YOU KNOW FELHAN...?
HUH?
WHERE IS FELHAN?
WE'RE ABOUT TO HEAD TO MONSIEUR LANBERRE'S PLACE. YOU'LL COME ALONG TOO, WON'T YOU?
YES, I'VE BEEN JUST FINE
HAVE YOU BEEN WELL, NATALIE?!
YOUR MOTHER'S CONDITION HAS SUDDENLY WORSENED
YOU HAVE TO COME RIGHT AWAY
HERE TO SEE SOMEBODY?
WHY ARE YOU—?
FELHAN

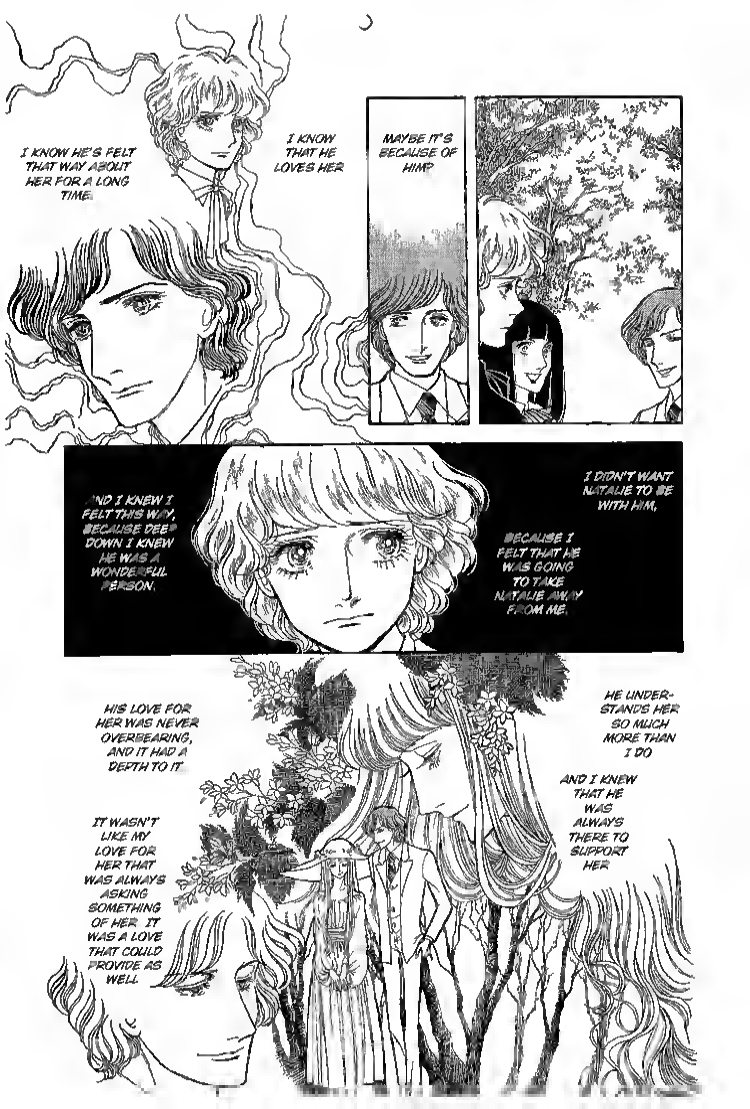
JShoujo Scans
presents
Suna no Shiro
Chapter 09
Credits
Translator: Oceansportrait
Proofreader: Mars
Cleaner: Alicca & Oceansportrait
Typesetter: Alicca & Oceansportrait
QCer: Vally & Oceansportrait

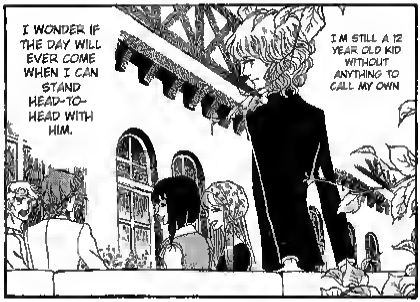
SHE SUDDENLY TURNED VIOLENT, AND WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CALM HER DOWN SINCE.
WHAT...
SHE APPEARS VERY FRIGHTENED AND SHE WON'T STOP CRYING
UP UNTIL NOW SHE HARDLY UTTERED A WORD AND SHE SPENT HER DAYS JUST FACING THE WALL. I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S CAUSED THIS CHANGE
AND SHE WON'T STOP CRYING..."
"SHE APPEARS VERY FRIGHTENED...
THIS BUT IS A HUGE GAMBLE THAT WE'RE TAKING HERE
TO BREAK OUT OF THE CAGE SHE'S ENTRAPPED HERSELF IN
THIS MAY BE HER BEST CHANCE

SHE MIGHT... GO BACK TO HER ORIGINAL SELF
IF THAT HAPPENS THEN...
IF WE'RE ABLE TO HELP HER IN THE RIGHT WAY SHE CAN SNAP HERSELF OUT OF HER STATE
BUT, IF SHE REVERTS BACK INSIDE HERSELF AGAIN THIS MAY BE THE LAST TIME IT MAY BE PERMANENT
WHERE'S MR. MICHELE?
HE SAID HE'LL BE JOINING US LATER ON
HE HAS SOME BUSINESS HE HAS TO TAKE CARE OF
ISN'T MR. MICHELE GOING TOO?
WE'RE GOING TO MR. LANPERRE'S PLACE RIGHT?
SO WHY DID HE COME HERE LOOKING FOR FELHAN?
"SOME BUSINESS"...?
HE'S A PSYCHIATRIST, ISN'T HE?

JUST ANOTHER SIDE TO THAT TALENT OF HERS
HER LATEST WORK IS CLOSER TO A NOVEL. IT'S VERY LOVELY!
WELL I LOOK FORWARD TO READING IT
IF YOU'D LIKE THIS PLACE IS ALWAYS FREE FOR YOU TO USE...
WHAT WONDERFUL NEWS! A PARTY FOR MISS NATALIE TO CELEBRATE HER NEWEST RELEASE!
WILL I CERTAINLY HAVE NO COMPLAINTS
WITH THE QUALITY OF HER WORK
I FEEL THE SAME WAY SHE ONLY GETS BETTER WITH AGE
I NEVER TIRE OF WATCHING WOMEN BLOSSOM
YOU'RE POSITIVELY GLOWING THESE DAYS
OH, STOP IT BLAINE
COME ON, FESS UP NATALIE!
YOU'RE PRETTY PROUD OF YOURSELF TOO AREN'T YOU?

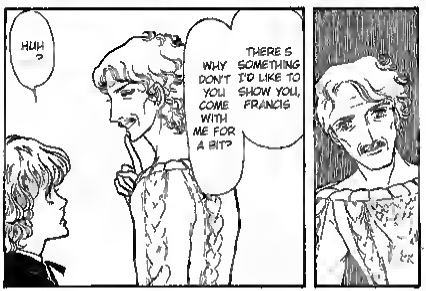

NO MATTER HOW YOU WRITE IT IT'S YOUR WORLD AFTER ALL.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS WRITE IT THE WAY YOU WANT TO
THIS WAS A HIT EXPERIMENTAL COMPARED TO MY OTHER WORKS SO I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT IN WHAT DIRECTION I SHOULD TAKE FOR THE LONGEST
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE YOU AND ROBERT WERE THERE FOR ME THAT I WAS ABLE TO COME THIS FAR.
AND IF IT WASN'T FOR ROBERT'S ADVICE, I HAVE NO DOUBTS I WOULD HAVE GIVEN UP ON THE BOOK. THAT'S BEING PUBLISHED A LONG TIME AGO...
WHEN HE SAID THAT TO ME I FELT AS IF A BURDEN HAD BEEN LIFTED FROM MY SHOULDERS
AND IT WAS LIKE MAGIC THE WORDS FLOWED OUT OF ME NATURALLY
SHE'S BECOMING LOVELIER WITH EACH PASSING DAY.
IT'S JUST AS THEY'VE DESCRIBED IT.
SHE'S BEEN THROUGH SO MANY HARDSHIPS AND YET SHE'S ABLE TO SMILE LIKE SHE DOES...
WHILE I'M JUST WANDERING AROUND WITHOUT A SENSE OF DIRECTION SHE'S GOING FURTHER ON AHEAD


I KNOW HE'S FELT THAT WAY ABOUT HER FOR A LONG TIME.
I KNOW THAT HE LOVES HER
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF HIM?
I DIDN'T WANT NATALIE TO BE WITH HIM,
BECAUSE I FELT THAT HE WAS GOING TO TAKE NATALIE AWAY FROM ME.
'ND I KNEW I FELT THIS WAY, BECAUSE DEE' DOWN I KNEW HE WAS A WONDE'FUL PERSON.
HIS LOVE FOR HER WAS NEVER OVERBEARING, AND IT HAD A DEPTH TO IT.
IT WASN'T LIKE MY LOVE FOR HER THAT WAS ALWAYS ASKING SOMETHING OF HER. IT WAS A LOVE THAT COULD PROVIDE AS WELL.
HE UNDERSTANDS HER SO MUCH MORE THAN I DO
AND I KNEW THAT HE WAS ALWAYS THERE TO SUPPORT HER


I WONDER IF THE DAY WILL EVER COME WHEN I CAN STAND HEAD-TO-HEAD WITH HIM.
I'M STILL A 12 YEAR OLD KID WITHOUT ANYTHING TO CALL MY OWN

PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT
OH, I THINK THIS WON'T BE ENOUGH.
I WONDER IF THIS'LL BE ENOUGH ATTENDEES

JOIN IN
I CAN'T—

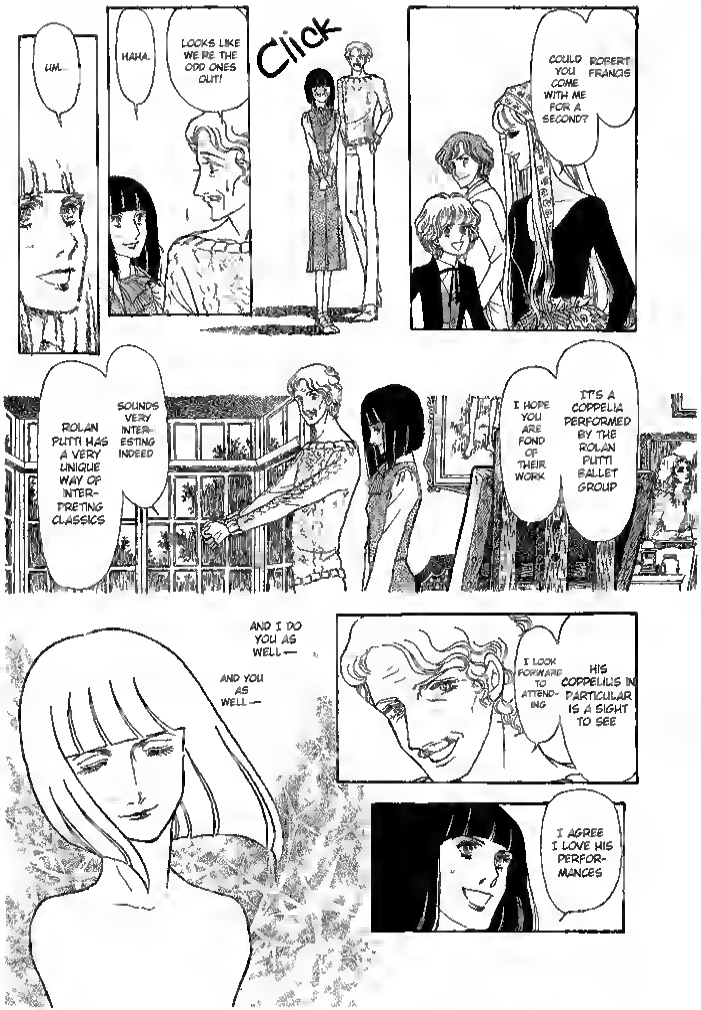

HUH ?
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU, FRANCIS
WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH ME FOR A BIT?

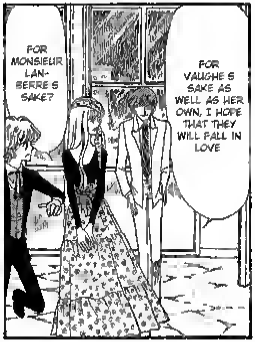
IF I WANT TO BE WITH HER I HAVE TO SURPASS THIS PERSON
I WONDER IF THAT'S POSSIBLE
I WONDER IF I CAN BECOME SOMEONE WHO IS CAPABLE OF SURPASSING HIM.

OF COURSE I'M NOT GIVING THIS TO YOU AS MR LANIERRE THE TEACHER, BUT RATHER, AS YOUR FRIEND
THIS IS A PRESENT TO CELEBRATE YOUR ACCEPTANCE TO THE SCHOOL
B--BUT I CAN'T ACCEPT THIS...
THIS IS FOR ME?
WELL, YES I WOULD BE INTERESTED BUT...
IF YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT TAKING YOUR ART FURTHER, COULD I NOT LEND YOU A HAND?
I'VE SEEN YOUR WORK YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING SPECIAL
BECAUSE I LIKE YOU VERY MUCH
IT MUST BE
I HAVEN'T EVER REALLY DONE ANYTHING FOR YOU
WHY ARE YOU SO NICE TO ME?

IT'S MY FIRST TIME EVER RECEIVING ANYTHING LIKE THIS I'M SO HAPPY!
I'LL TREASURE IT ALWAYS!
THANK YOU, MR. LANBERRE!
YOU'LL ACCEPT THIS GIFT, WON'T YOU?
MR. LANBERRE...
AND I'M GOING TO DRAW THE BEST PORTRAIT THAT I CAN OF HER!
I'LL LEARN TO DRAW BETTER.
WITH THIS I CAN DRAW NATALIE
YOU MUST'VE TAKEN QUITE A LIKING TO HIM!
IT'S TO CELEBRATE HIS ACCEPTANCE INTO THE ACADEMY
OH BUT
IT'S OKAY IF I ACCEPT IT, ISN'T IT, NATALIE?
BUT HE CAN'T ACCEPT SOMETHING SO EXPENSIVE... OH,

NATALIE!
IT'S FOR NEXT SATURDAY
IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU, WILL YOU ACCEPT IT AS A THANK YOU FOR FRANCIS' GIFT?
OH NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT BLAINE INVITED ME TO A BALLET BUT I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO BECAUSE OF A PRIOR ENGAGEMENT,
OH YOU'RE NOT OLD! YOU'RE STILL SO YOUNG!
I'D BE HONOURED TO GO BUT I'M SURE SHE WOULDN'T WANT TO GO WITH AN OLD MAN LIKE ME PERHAPS MICHELE OR ROBERT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE?
THUMP
OH WELL THEN, OF COURSE I'D LIKE TO PUT IN MY REQUEST TO ATTEND
OH, HOW HORRIBLE!
BLANCHE
IF YOU DON'T GO WITH HER, SHE'LL HAVE TO GO TO IT ALONE
I ACTUALLY MADE PLANS WITH MICHELE ON THAT DAY
Ah...


UM...
HAHA.
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE THE ODD ONES OUT!
Click
COULD YOU COME WITH ME FOR A SECOND?
ROBERT FRANCIS
ROLAN PUTTI HAS A VERY UNIQUE WAY OF INTERPRETING CLASSICS
SOUNDS VERY INTERESTING INDEED
I HOPE YOU ARE FOND OF THEIR WORK
IT'S A COPPELIA PERFORMED BY THE ROLAN PUTTI BALLET GROUP
AND I DO YOU AS WELL—
AND YOU AS WELL—
I LOOK FORWARD TO ATTENDING
HIS COPPELIUS IN PARTICULAR IS A SIGHT TO SEE
I AGREE I LOVE HIS PERFORMANCES



I'M SURE IT WOULD PROBABLY BE EASIER ON HIM IF HE COULD FIND IT IN HIS HEART TO HATE HER.
BUT HE PAINTED ALL OF HIS WORKS SO LOVINGLY--
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE WOMAN IN HIS PAINTINGS?

Ishouyo Scans

LET ME OUT!!
!OO!! !OO!!!
HER HANDS ARE
SHOULDN'T WE STOP HER? IF WE DON'T THEN—
NO LEAVE HER BE
THUMP

YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A VERY DANGEROUS THING WE RE GOING TO ATTEMPT.
BUT IF WE DON'T DO THIS THEN WE CAN'T EXPECT HER TO GET BETTER.
FEL HAN...
IT'S NOT AS IF THERE S ANYTHING GOOD WAITING FOR HER EVEN IF SHE SNAPS OUT OF IT
WHY ATTEMPT TO GET HER TO "GO BACK TO NORMAL"?
IS IT BECAUSE YOU FEEL A RESPONSIBILITY AS A DOCTOR?
IT'S BETTER THIS WAY
IF SHE STAYS LOCKED INSIDE HERSELF, SHE WON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE PAIN
FOR A DOCTOR, HIS JOB S UP WHEN HE S CURED THE ILLNESS,
BUT WHAT HAPPENS AFTER WARDS? WHAT HAPPENS TO US?
I'M THE EMBARRASSMENT OF HER LIFE
IF SHE GETS HERSELF BACK, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GO ON LIVING WITH HER?
SO TO YOU, SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HURTING RIGHT NOW?
FELHAN, THE ONE WHO WANTS THE CHANGE TO HAPPEN ISN'T ME. IT'S HER.
IN THE DARK RECESSES OF HER MIND SHE S TRYING TO REACH OUT TO US. THAT'S WHY THERE'S BEEN THIS SUDDEN DEVIATION IN HER BEHAVIOUR

DO YOU WISH HER TO EXPERIENCE A PAIN FAR MORE THAN YOU EXPERIENCED AT HER HANDS?
YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU'VE ALWAYS HATED HER. THEN TELL ME: DO YOU DERIVE PLEASURE FROM WATCHING HER IN THIS STATE?
RIGHT NOW, SHE'S TRYING TO CLAW HER WAY OUT OF HER SHELL
IF YOU HATE HER WITH EVERY DEPTH OF YOUR BEING, THEN SEEING HER IN THIS STATE SHOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON YOU
YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO THINK OF HER AS YOUR MOTHER
IF YOU'RE FINE WITH HER AS SHE IS, THEN YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS SEEING HER LIKE THIS.
DON'T LOOK AWAY
STOP—
LOOK AT HER! DOES THAT LOOK TO YOU LIKE SOMEONE WHO'S NOT IN A LOT OF PAIN?!

IT'S BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO FEEL SO PATHETIC THAT YOU LEARNED TO REPLACE YOUR FEELINGS WITH THE OPPOSITE OF HOW YOU TRULY FELT
IT'S EASIER TO HATE THAN IT IS TO BEG AND BEG FOR LOVE, BUT NEVER RECEIVE IT, ISN'T IT?
NO!
THAT'S WHY YOU HATED THE MOTHER WHO DIDN'T LOVE YOU.
YOU UNDERSTAND WHY YOU CAN'T LOOK HER IN THE FACE, DON'T YOU? IT'S BECAUSE DEEP DOWN, YOU DO LOVE HER.
"I DON'T EVEN WANT TO SEE HER FACE!"
"I DON'T LOVE HER!"
TENSE
AHH HH!

PLEASE HELP HER...
EVEN IF SHE'S THE PARENT THAT SHE IS... SHE IS STILL MY MOTHER AFTER ALL.
DON'T YOU HOLD HOPE THAT JUST AS YOU REALIZED THAT SHE WOULD COME TO REALIZE HER ROLE IN YOUR LIFE AS WELL?
REGARDLESS OF WHOM THE FATHER IS REGARDLESS OF WHAT KIND OF CHILD HE IS, A PARENT IS ABLE TO LOVE HER CHILD.
THAT'S WHAT I BELIEVE.

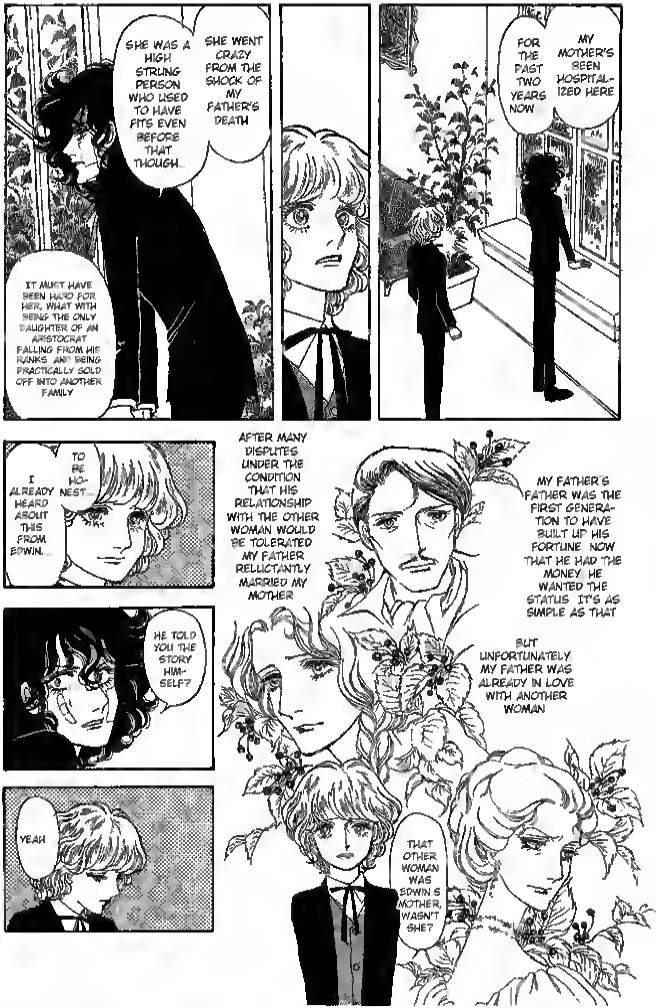
SHE'S A LONELY PERSON.
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND HER FEELINGS
YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THE PAIN OF WANTING LOVE FROM SOMEONE WHO WON'T LOVE YOU
I WAS ALWAYS PRAYING...
creak
THAT'S RIGHT—
AND FOR HER TO SEND A GENTLE SMILE MY WAY
FOR HER HAND TO REACH OUT TO ME...
WHEN DID I DECIDE TO SHIFT MY PAIN TO HATRED?
HOW DID I COME TO BE THIS WAY?
WHEN DID I TELL MYSELF TO STOP WANTING SOMETHING THAT NO AMOUNT OF WANTING WILL GRANT?

MOTHER.
MO-
THER
IT'S
ME.
IT'S YOUR
SON,
FELHAN.

GYAH!!
AH!
JULIUS!
JULIUS!
MOTHE---
OOOO!!

SHE RECOG-NIZED ME
I'M SORRY TO PUT YOU THROUGH THAT
I'M SO SORRY
JULIUS.
JULIUS.
FELHAN, IT'S OKAY THAT'S ENOUGH!
I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE
IT'S ALL RIGHT FELHAN
IF WE JUST KEEP THIS UP THEN.
THAT MEANS SHE'S GETTING BETTER, DOESN'T IT?
SO WE SHOULD BRING HIM HERE
JULIUS WAS THE ONE SHE CARED ABOUT
HE LOOKS JUST LIKE JULIUS.
WE SHOULD BRING FRANCIS HERE...

NOT AT ALL
TO MAKE YOU COME HERE ON A WEEK END.
SORRY FRANCIS,
CLICK
IT'S BETTER THAT WAY
I'LL TELL HIM MYSELF
HE'S HURT...?
AS LONG AS WE ARE ASKING HIM TO DO THIS FOR US, HE SHOULD KNOW THE WHOLE STORY
IT'S ALL RIGHT IF I TELL HIM, ISN'T IT, FELIXIAN?
WHAT A HEAVY ATMOSPHERE...
HE SEEMS SOMEHOW DIFFERENT FROM HIS USUAL SELF


SHE WAS A HIGH STRUNG PERSON WHO USED TO HAVE FITS EVEN BEFORE THAT THOUGH...
SHE WENT CRAZY FROM THE SHOCK OF MY FATHER'S DEATH
IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD FOR HER, WHAT WITH BEING THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF AN ARISTOCRAT FALLING FROM HIS RANKS AND BEING PRACTICALLY SOLD OFF INTO ANOTHER FAMILY
MY MOTHER'S BEEN HOSPITALIZED HERE FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS NOW...
TO BE HONEST... I ALREADY HEARD ABOUT THIS FROM EDWIN...
HE TOLD YOU THE STORY HIMSELF?
YEAH
AFTER MANY DISPUTES UNDER THE CONDITION THAT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OTHER WOMAN WOULD BE TOLERATED MY FATHER RELUCTANTLY MARRIED MY MOTHER
MY FATHER'S FATHER WAS THE FIRST GENERATION TO HAVE BUILT UP HIS FORTUNE NOW THAT HE HAD THE MONEY, HE WANTED THE STATUS IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT
BUT UNFORTUNATELY MY FATHER WAS ALREADY IN LOVE WITH ANOTHER WOMAN
THAT OTHER WOMAN WAS EDWIN'S MOTHER, WASN'T SHE?

DEEP DOWN, HE DOES CARE ABOUT YOU
HUH. YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING TO THINK HE'D OFFER UP THAT KIND OF INFORMATION HIMSELF!
GUESS YOU REALLY HAVE GOT ALL THE ANGEL'S TRICKS UP YOUR SLEEVE, HUH?
WHY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WHY"? IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SIBLINGS, OF COURSE.
SatiCha
HE JUST THINKS THAT.
WE'RE NOT RELATED
MY REAL FATHER, IS SOMEONE MY MOTHER MET WHILE ON VACATION.
AND WHOM SHE SPENT A FUN NIGHT WITH BY THE FIREPLACE SO AS TO SPEAK.

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE WOULD TELL YOU ALL OF THIS...
BUT SURPRISE, SURPRISE, FOR SOME REASON SHE ENDED UP SLEEPING WITH SOME GUY SHE JUST MET
A MAN WITH THE SAME HAIR COLOUR AS MY FATHER
MY MOTHER WAS SOMEONE WHO CLUNG ON TO HER ARISTOCRATIC STATUS
SHE REFUSED TO SEE HERSELF AS ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF A HIGH-STATUS ARISTOCRAT
IT'S NOT EVEN THAT BIG OF A SURPRISE THAT THEY'D HATE EACH OTHER, SEEING AS HOW THEIR MARRIAGE WAS ONE OF CONVENIENCE FOR THE SAKE OF MONEY AND STATUS
ANYHOW, IT ALL BECAME CLEAR TO ME THE LAST TIME THEY FOUGHT.
MY FATHER SEEMED TO HAVE SOME SUSPICIONS OF HIS OWN AS WELL.
IT'S SOMETHING I JUST PICKED UP
BUT AS THAT HAPPENED I BECAME MORE AND MORE OF A BURDEN TO HER. SHE PROBABLY WAS REMINDED OF THE MISTAKES OF HER PAST EVERY TIME SHE LOOKED AT ME
SHE USED TO GET ANGRY WHENEVER I TRIED TO COME NEAR HER
WELL YEAH, I CAN KIND OF UNDERSTAND WHY. HE DID HAVE A LOT OF CHARM TO HIM.
FEMALES ARE STRANGE BEINGS. EVEN AFTER ALL THAT, SHE SOMEHOW STILL MANAGED TO FALL IN LOVE WITH MY FATHER

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY SHE DIDN'T WANT ME NEAR HER
BUT... YOU'RE HER SON!
HE WAS A GOOD KID EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BORN WITH A WEAK HEART. HE DID THE BEST TO HELP OUT, AND THEY DOTED ON HIM.
AND ONE DAY, JULIUS WAS BORN
MY FATHER PROBABLY PITIED HER BEING LIKE THIS, AND SO, WITH TIME, THEY FOUGHT LESS AND LESS
IF YOU JUST LOOKED THE OTHER WAY WHEN IT CAME TO MY FATHER'S LOVER, WE HAD A PRETTY GOOD LIFE GOING FOR US
HE WAS THE ONE WHO LIGHTENED THE MOOD AND BROUGHT HAPPINESS TO THE HOUSE
EVEN IF THEIR PARENTS WANTED THEM TO GET MARRIED, THAT'S JUST MESSED UP! WHY DIDN'T YOUR FATHER JUST RUN AWAY WITH EDWIN'S MOTHER?
BUT WHY DID THEY MARRY THEN?
I-I KNOW I HAVE NO RIGHT TO SAY THIS...
BUT FOR THAT TO HAPPEN, HAVING MONEY WASN'T ENOUGH...
MY GRANDFATHER'S DREAM WAS TO ENTER HIGH SOCIETY...
HE ADOPTED MY FATHER, WHO HAD LOST HIS PARENTS TO THE WAR, AND MADE HIM HIS SOLE HEIR.
MY GRANDFATHER WAS TOO BUSY MAKING MONEY SO HE NEVER GOT THE CHANCE TO MARRY

IT WAS MY MOTHER WHO ENROLLED ME IN THE SCHOOL WE'RE GOING TO RIGHT NOW AS WELL
LOOKING AT IT FROM MY MOTHER'S POINT OF VIEW, SHE PROBABLY DIDN'T CARE WHO IT WENT TO JUST AS LONG AS IT DIDN'T GO TO EDWIN
AT MY GRAND-FATHER'S DEATH BED, MY MOTHER MADE HIM PROMISE TO MAKE ME THE HEIR TO MY FATHER'S ESTATE...
JUST LIKE HOW I COULD NEVER TRULY HATE MY MOTHER,
MY FATHER COULDN'T JUST ABANDON MY GRAND-FATHER LIKE THAT
I ONLY FOUND OUT MY FATHER'S LOVER'S CHILD WAS EDWIN WHEN JULIUS DIED...
ON THAT DAY, MY FATHER HAD TAKEN JULIUS, WHO WAS FEELING A BIT SICK THAT DAY, FOX HUNTING
JULIUS SOMEHOW ACCIDENTALLY FELL INTO THE LAKE AND DROWNED
WITH HIS DEATH, THE HARMONY THAT HAD SUPPORTED THE HOUSE-HOLD—
COL-LAPSED

HOW MUCH DO YOU HAVE TO HURT ME BEFORE YOU'LL BE SATISFIED?!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KILLED HIM!
SOMETHING INSIDE MY MOTHER SNAPPED AND SHE BLAMED MY FATHER FOR JULIUS'S DEATH
IT WAS AS IF ALL THE HATRED THAT HAD BEEN BUILDING UP INSIDE OF HER ALL THIS TIME BUBBLED TO SURFACE
YOU BRUTE!
WELL, I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU!
YOU'RE GOING TO THAT WOMAN'S PLACE AGAIN AREN'T YOU?!
I CAN'T BE WITH YOU ANY LONGER
LET'S SEPARATE.
WHAT YOU REALLY WANTED WAS FOR THAT WOMAN'S CHILD TO BE YOUR HEIR, WASN'T IT?
WELL OF COURSE HE'S ONLY THE CHILD OF THE WOMAN YOU LOVE
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LET THAT HAPPEN

HE'S THE CHILD OF SOME PASSING TRAVELLER I MET WHILE I WAS VACATIONING!
YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU? FELHAN'S NOT YOUR REAL CHILD!
THIS HOUSE THE COMPANY, EVERYTHING, WILL GO TO FELHAN!
ALL THE FRUITS OF YOUR LABOUR WILL BE PASSED ON TO THE CHILD OF SOME NAMELESS MAN!
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR ALL THE PAIN YOU'VE CAUSED ME UP TO NOW!
IT MIGHT'VE BEEN THEN
THAT MY MOTHER HAD GOTTEN TO THE POINT OF NO RETURN
HOW COULD YOU BE—
I'LL KILL YOU! I'LL KILL YOU!
SHE SUDDENLY GRABBED A KNIFE AND RAN AT MY FATHER
STOP IT! MOTHER, NO!
!!

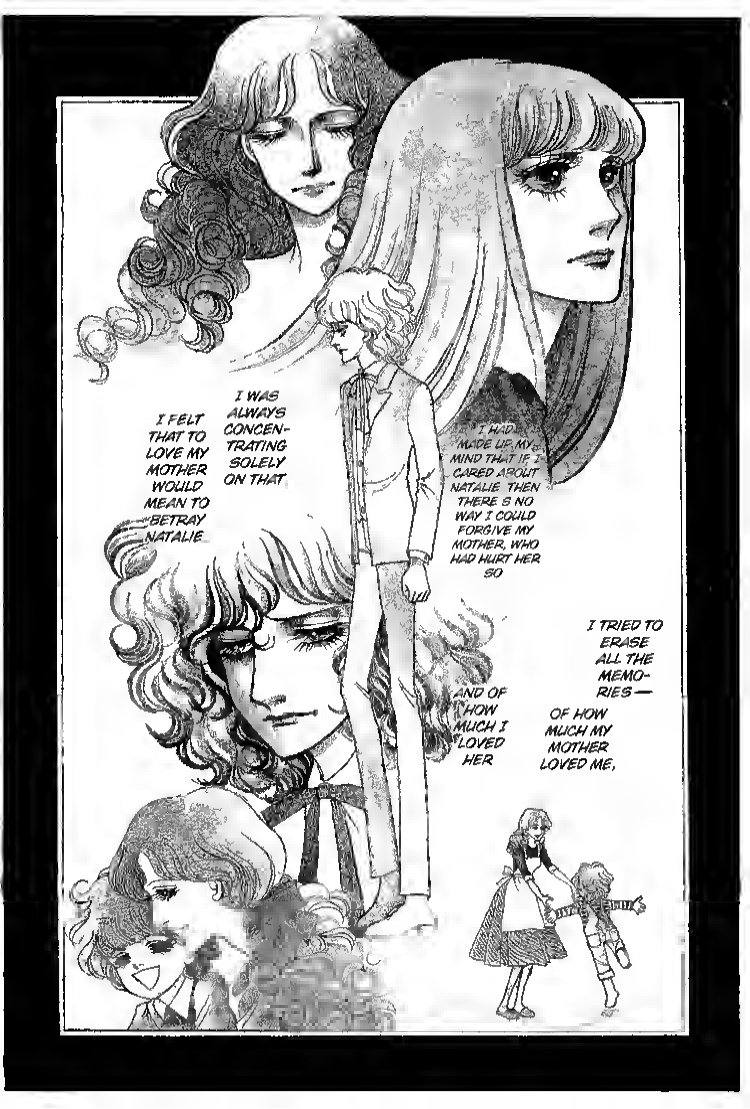
WAS MY MOTHER, WHO WAS ALWAYS SO PRIDEFUL BECOME LITTLE MORE THAN A PITIFUL WOMAN WITH A LOOK OF PURE MISERY ON HER FACE
WHAT I SAW—
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I SAW MY MOTHER IN TEARS
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME ALSO SEEING MY FATHER WITH THAT KIND OF EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE—
SOMETHING UNBELIEVABLE HAPPENED
AT THAT MOMENT

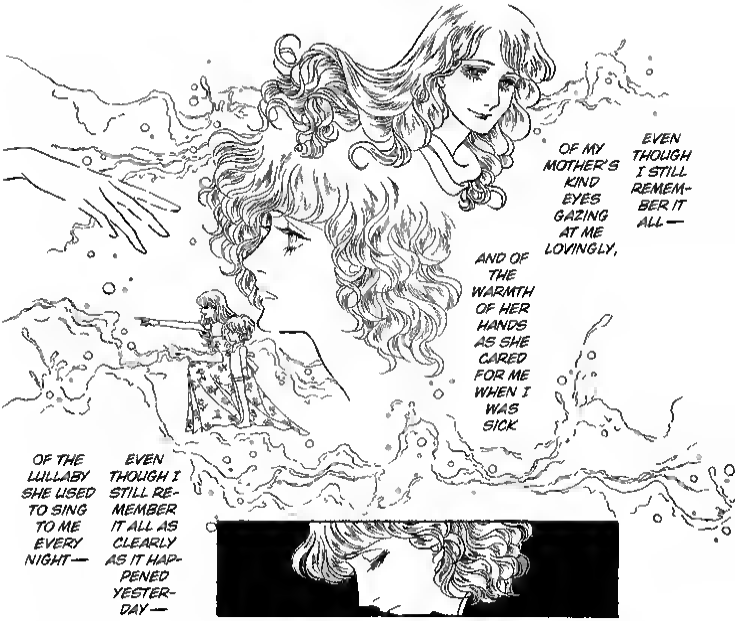
DEAR!!!
SHE WAS NEVER THE SAME AFTER THAT...
IT HAPPENED SO FAST, I HAD HARDLY A TIME TO BLINK
MY FATHER GRABBED MY MOTHER'S KNIFE FROM HER, AND SUDDENLY, PIERCED HIS OWN CHEST WITH IT
I REMEMBER MY FATHER'S LAST WORDS
HE TOLD ME "I'M SORRY."
HE COULDN'T ABANDON MY PITIFUL MOTHER,
NOR THE WOMAN HE TRULY LOVED
WHY DID YOU TELL ME ALL THIS?

MY MOTHER'S CRYING, AND CALLING FOR JULIUS
MY MOTHER'S TRYING TO GET HERSELF BACK AGAIN
FOR THAT TO HAPPEN, I NEED YOUR HELP
EVEN AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED...
YOU STILL LOVE HER AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED?
YOU STILL LOVE HER?
WHEN IT COMES RIGHT DOWN TO IT— SHE'S STILL MY MOTHER, AFTER ALL
Ishouyo Scans

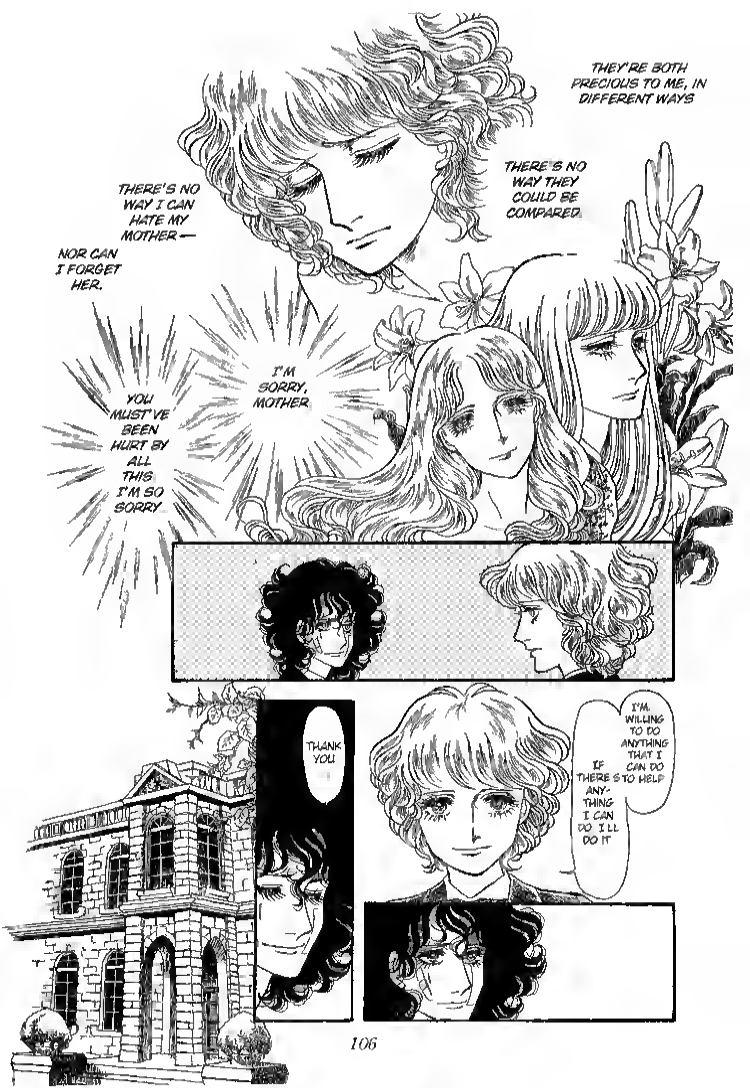
Shoujo Scans
Credits
Translator
Oceansportrait
Proofreader
Mars
Cleaner
Alicca & Oceansportrait
Typesetter
Alicca & Oceansportrait
QCer
Oceansportrait & Anya
Chapter 10
Suna no Shiro

"SHE'S STILL...MY MOTHER AFTER ALL"
I'VE GIVEN UP TRYING TO DENY IT
NO MATTER HOW MUCH HATRED I FELT TOWARDS HER, THERE WAS STILL A PART OF ME DEEP DOWN THAT HAD FORGIVEN HER FOR EVERYTHING
IT'S STRANGE HOW BLOOD IS THICKER THAN WATER
BECAUSE SHE'S STILL YOUR MOTHER?
FELHAN—
FELHAN STILL CARES ABOUT HIS MOTHER EVEN THOUGH SHE WON'T RETURN SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS A SMILE
AS FOR ME...
AS FOR ME...
HE CARRIES IN HIM AN UNCONDITIONAL LOVE FOR HER


I FELT THAT TO LOVE MY MOTHER WOULD MEAN TO BETRAY NATALIE
I WAS ALWAYS CONCENTRATING SOLELY ON THAT
I HAD MADE UP MY MIND THAT IF I CARED ABOUT NATALIE, THEN THERE'S NO WAY I COULD FORGIVE MY MOTHER, WHO HAD HURT HER SO
AND OF HOW MUCH I LOVED HER
I TRIED TO ERASE ALL THE MEMORIES—
OF HOW MUCH MY MOTHER LOVED ME,

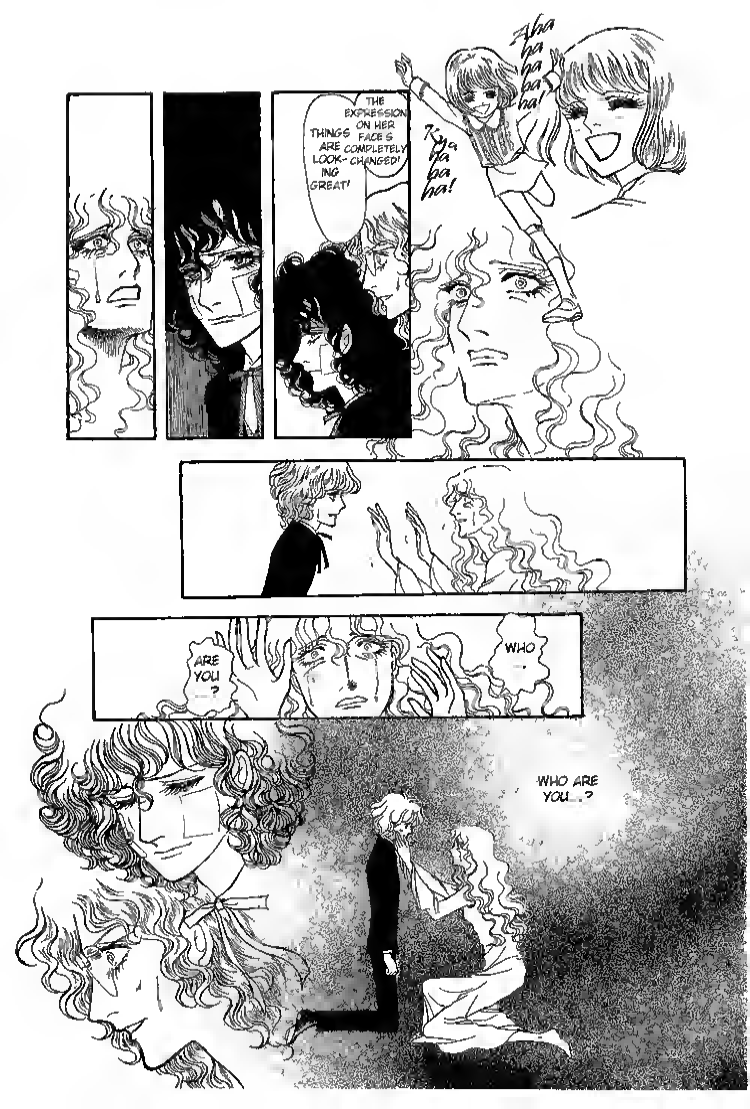

EVEN THOUGH I STILL REMEMBER IT ALL—
OF MY MOTHER'S KIND EYES GAZING AT ME LOVINGLY,
AND OF THE WARMTH OF HER HANDS AS SHE CARED FOR ME WHEN I WAS SICK
OF THE LULLABY SHE USED TO SING TO ME EVERY NIGHT—
EVEN THOUGH I STILL REMEMBER IT ALL AS CLEARLY AS IT HAPPENED YESTERDAY—

MY LOVE FOR MY MOTHER WOULDN'T CHANGE THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT NATALIE.
I'M NOT BETRAYING NATALIE BY LOVING MY MOTHER.


THEY'RE BOTH PRECIOUS TO ME, IN DIFFERENT WAYS
THERE'S NO WAY THEY COULD BE COMPARED.
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN HATE MY MOTHER—
NOR CAN I FORGET HER.
I'M SORRY, MOTHER.
YOU MUST'VE BEEN HURT BY ALL THIS. I'M SO SORRY.
I'M WILLING TO DO ANYTHING THAT I CAN DO TO HELP. IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO, I'LL DO IT.
THANK YOU.

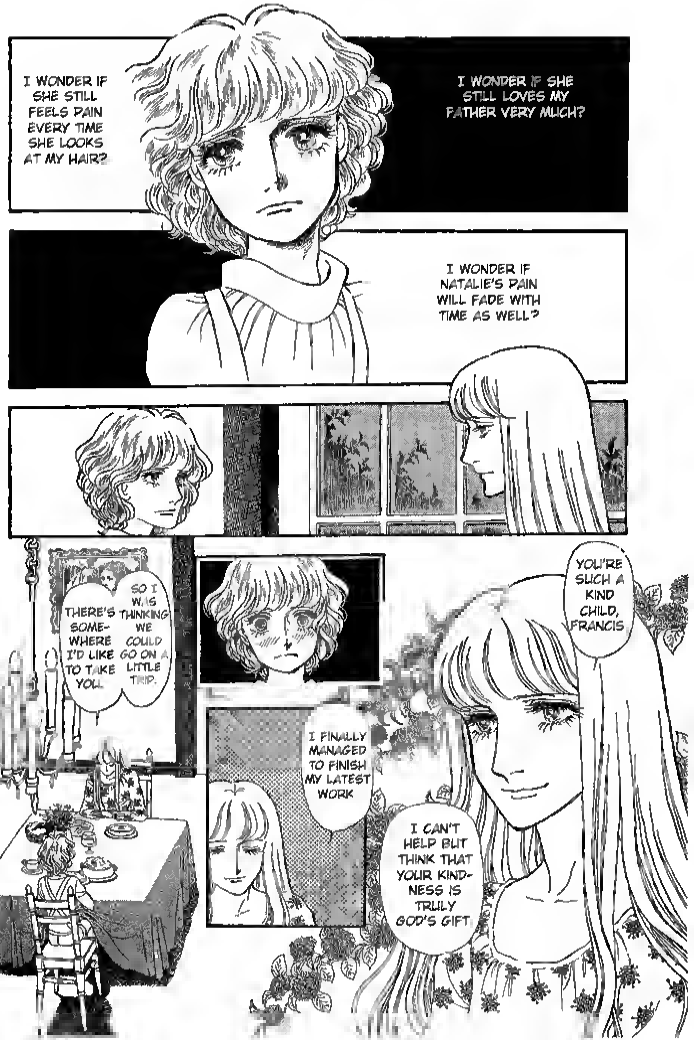
OKAY.
SO JUST TO REMIND YOU AGAIN NO MATTER WHAT SHE SAYS DON'T OPPOSE HER, OKAY?
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS NOD AND SMILE
ARE YOU GOING TO BE OKAY FRANCIS?
SHE'S REALLY WORKED UP.
I'LL BE FINE, MR. MICHELE
PLEASE FREE EDWIN FROM HIS SHACKLES
FELHAN
I... CARE ABOUT YOU AND HIM BOTH.
I CAN TELL IT'S TAKING A TOLL ON HIM.
HE THINKS EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED IS HIS FAULT.
THAT'S WHY HE'S BEEN DOING EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO FULFILL HIS DEBT TO YOU.

HELLO !
N-NO
FLINCH


Aha ha ha ha ha!
Ha ha ha ha!
THE EXPRESSION ON HER FACE IS COMPLETELY CHANGED!
THINGS ARE LOOKING GREAT!
WHO...
ARE YOU...?
WHO ARE YOU...?

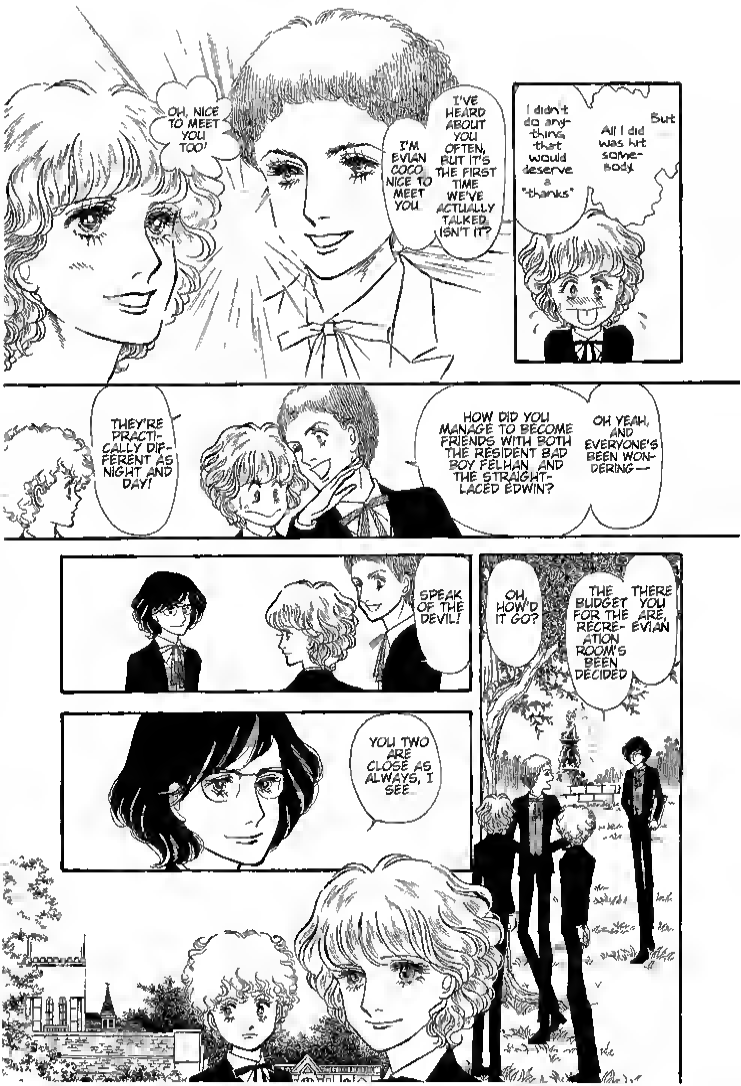
MR. MICHELE SAID AS LONG AS WE JUST KEEP THIS UP, SHE'LL DEFINITELY GET BETTER!
AND SHE WAS CRYING THE WHOLE TIME LIKE A CHILD WOULD
AND THEN SHE HELD ONTO MY HAND THE ENTIRE TIME!
I'M SURE IF IT WERE POSSIBLE HE WOULD'VE LIKED TO BE HIS TRUE SON,
HE CARED ABOUT HIS FATHER, DIDN'T HE?
AND TO BE LOVED LIKE THAT JULIUS BOY
I'M SURE, FELHAN'S DISLIKE OF EDWIN DOESN'T STEM FROM HATRED ITSELF
THEN THAT MIGHT MEAN HE MIGHT FORGIVE EDWIN
IF SHE GETS BETTER, THEN FELHAN WILL BE HAPPY, DON'T YOU THINK?
SILLY GOOSE, OF COURSE IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'M GOING TO GO VISIT HER EVERY WEEK RIGHT BEFORE I COME HOME.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, ISN'T IT, NATALIE?

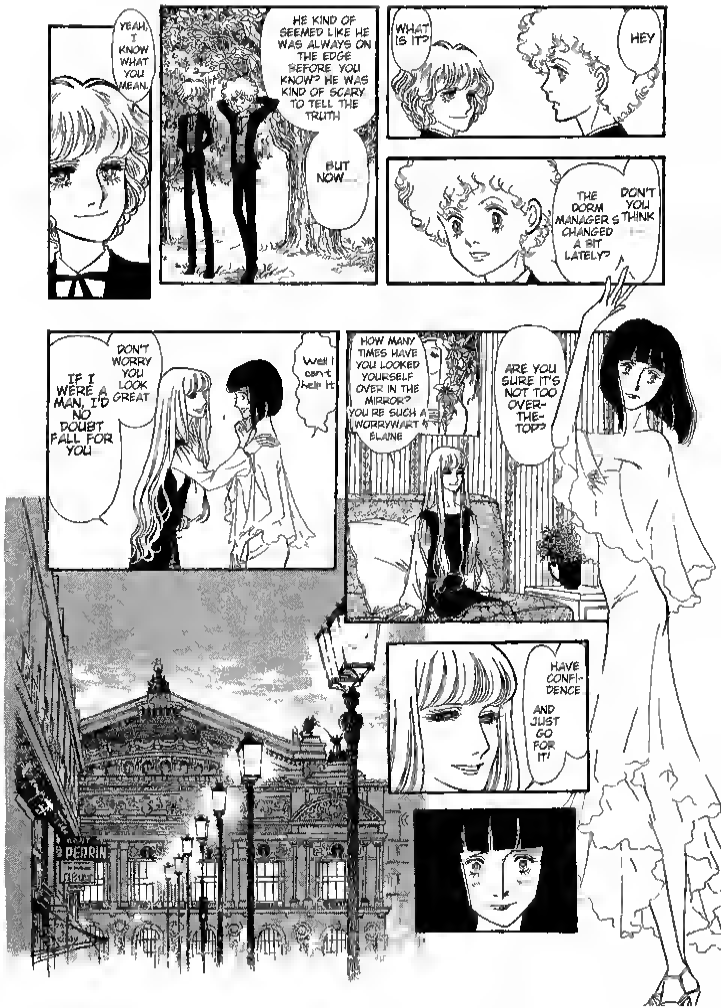
I THINK THAT WAS WHAT HURT FELHAN MOST OF ALL.
AND NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF CIRCUMSTANCES IT WAS UNDER, HE GREW UP BEING LOVED BY HIS PARENTS
EDWIN WAS HIS FATHER'S REAL SON,
SINCE THERE ARE NO BAD PEOPLE IN THIS PICTURE
JUST GIVE IT SOME TIME I'M SURE HIS FEELINGS WILL SOFTEN,
YEAH, THAT MAKES SENSE
IT'S STRANGE
IF THERE AREN'T ANY BAD PEOPLE, THEN WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN?
WHAT IS IT?
THAT PEOPLE ARE HURT ALL THE MORE.
IT'S BECAUSE NO ONE'S TO BLAME
I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT WAS BEING EVOKED FROM THOSE EYES.
THE EXPRESSION ON HER FACE WAS THE ONE THAT HAD ALWAYS CAUGHT MY ATTENTION.

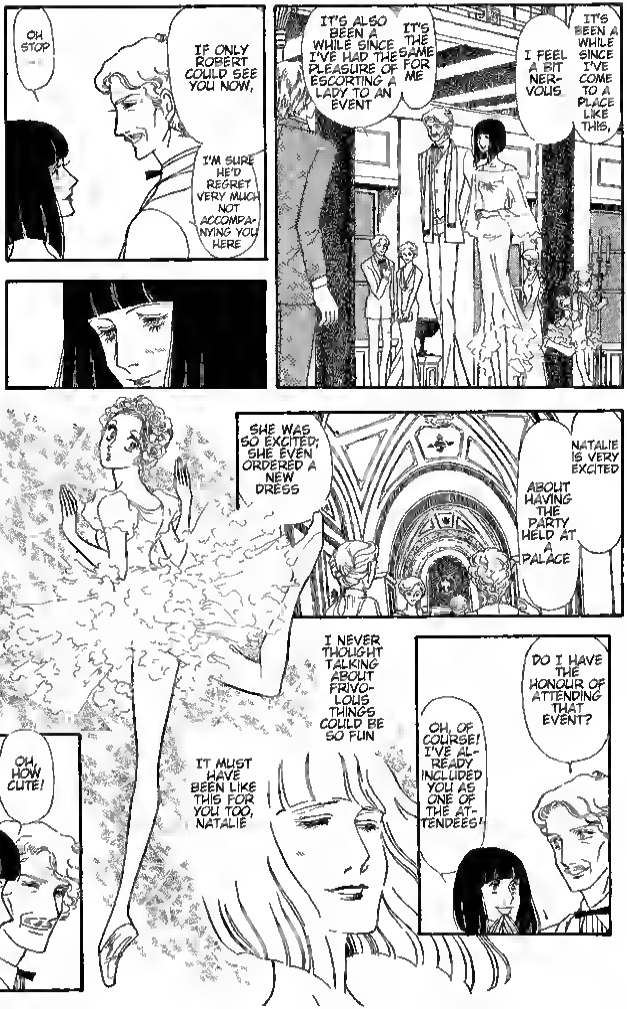

I WONDER IF SHE STILL FEELS PAIN EVERY TIME SHE LOOKS AT MY HAIR?
I WONDER IF SHE STILL LOVES MY FATHER VERY MUCH?
I WONDER IF NATALIE'S PAIN WILL FADE WITH TIME AS WELL?
THERE'S SOMEWHERE I'D LIKE TO TAKE YOU.
SO I WAS THINKING WE COULD GO ON A LITTLE TRIP.
I FINALLY MANAGED TO FINISH MY LATEST WORK
I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT YOUR KINDNESS IS TRULY GOD'S GIFT
YOU'RE SUCH A KIND CHILD, FRANCIS

WHAT! THIS IS AMAZING! THEN WHAT WOULD YOU CALL MY WORK?!
I'M STILL NOT THAT GREAT AT DRAWING, SO IT DOESN'T LOOK MUCH LIKE HER IN REAL LIFE, SHE'S A LOT PRETTIER!
WOW! SO THIS IS NATALIE ROHME! SHE'S SO PRETTY!
NO WONDER YOU'RE ALWAYS BRAGGING ABOUT HER!
WELL, NO WONDER MR LANIERRE'S ALWAYS PRAISING YOU
YOU'VE GOT SOME REAL TALENT THIS IS REALLY SOMETHING!
WE DON'T GET TO TALK TO GIRLS MUCH, YOU KNOW?
SO YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN ALL THE COMMOTION!
BUT THE VICE-MANAGER'S YOUNGER SISTER'S REALLY PRETTY!
OH YEAH, WHILE WE'RE ON THE TOPIC OF WORKS OF ART— YOU WENT HOME EARLY LAST WEEK SO YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW,
WHAT?
AWWW SHUCKS!
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT BUT SHE WON'T BE COMING NEXT WEEK
sigh
I WONDER IF SHE'LL COME NEXT WEEK TOO
YEAH! YOU'LL DEFINITELY THINK SO TOO ONCE YOU SEE HER!
IS SHE THAT PRETTY?

All this time...you were right there.
H-Hey Don't tell me
I FELT A BIT AWKWARD CUTTING IN WHEN YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT HER LIKE THAT
SORRY
BUT I'LL BE SURE TO LET YOU KNOW THE NEXT TIME SHE COMES, REMI CLAUDE,
AS THANKS FOR THE LOVELY COMPLIMENTS YOU'VE BESTOWED ON MY LIL' SIS.
WHOA
YES?
FRANCIS DEAUBERGE!
THE NEXT TIME YOU GO IN THERE IS WHEN YOU YOURSELF BREACH THE SCHOOL RULES
THAT MEANS, YOU'RE THE LAST TWO PEOPLE UNDER THE INFAMOUS ROOMMATE TO SYSTEM.
THE TEACHER'S MEETING WENT WELL
THANK YOU.
BUT THANKS TO YOUR COURAGEOUS ACTS THAT HAS ALL CHANGED
WE'VE HAD TROUBLES WITH THE ROOMMATE SYSTEM FROM THE VERY BEGINNING
WELL, IN YOUR CASE THOUGH, YOU DID LEAVE SCHOOL GROUNDS WITHOUT PERMISSION


OH, NICE TO MEET YOU TOO!
I'M EVIAN COCO NICE TO MEET YOU
I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU OFTEN, BUT IT'S THE FIRST TIME WE'VE ACTUALLY TALKED, ISN'T IT?
I didn't do anything that would deserve a "thanks"
But All I did was hit somebody
THEY'RE PRACTICALLY DIFFERENT AS NIGHT AND DAY!
HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH BOTH THE RESIDENT BAD BOY FELHAN AND THE STRAIGHT-LACED EDWIN?
OH YEAH, AND EVERYONE'S BEEN WONDERING—
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!
YOU TWO ARE CLOSE AS ALWAYS, I SEE—
OH, HOW'D IT GO?
THE BUDGET FOR THE RECREATION ROOM'S BEEN DECIDED
THERE YOU ARE, EVIAN


YEAH, I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
HE KIND OF SEEMED LIKE HE WAS ALWAYS ON THE EDGE BEFORE YOU KNOW? HE WAS KIND OF SCARY TO TELL THE TRUTH
BUT NOW...
WHAT IS IT?
HEY
DON'T YOU THINK THE DORM MANAGER'S CHANGED A BIT LATELY?
DON'T WORRY YOU LOOK GREAT
IF I WERE A MAN, I'D NO DOUBT FALL FOR YOU
WELL I CAN'T HELP IT
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU LOOKED YOURSELF OVER IN THE MIRROR? YOU'RE SUCH A WORRYWART, BLAINE
ARE YOU SURE IT'S NOT TOO OVER-THE-TOP?
HAVE CONFI-DENCE AND JUST GO FOR IT!
PEDRIN


OH STOP...
IF ONLY ROBERT COULD SEE YOU NOW.
I'M SURE HE'D REGRET VERY MUCH NOT ACCOMPANYING YOU HERE
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE COME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS.
I FEEL A BIT NERVOUS
IT'S THE SAME FOR ME
IT'S ALSO BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE OF ESCORTING A LADY TO AN EVENT
NATALIE IS VERY EXCITED
ABOUT HAVING THE PARTY HELD AT A PALACE
SHE WAS SO EXCITED; SHE EVEN ORDERED A NEW DRESS
DO I HAVE THE HONOUR OF ATTENDING THAT EVENT?
OH, OF COURSE! I'VE ALREADY INCLUDED YOU AS ONE OF THE ATTENDEES!
I NEVER THOUGHT TALKING ABOUT FRIVOLOUS THINGS COULD BE SO FUN
IT MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE THIS FOR YOU TOO, NATALIE
OH, HOW CUTE!

BY THE TIME I REALIZED IT I WAS ALWAYS STANDING ON THE SIDELINES OF LOVE
JUST THINKING OF THE PAIN I WOULD FEEL IF IT CAME TO LOSING THAT PERSON STOPPED ME FROM EVER TRULY LOSING MYSELF IN A RELATIONSHIP
AND BECAUSE OF IT, I WAS SCARED OF FALLING IN LOVE
GROWING UP, I WATCHED HOW YOUR LOVE AFFECTED YOU
TO THINK MY HEART COULD FLUTTER THIS MUCH—
BUT TO THINK I COULD BE ATTRACTED TO SOMEONE SO STRONGLY—
I THINK SOMEWHERE IN MY HEART, I HAD GIVEN UP ON LOVE.
IF THERE'S EVEN AN INKLING OF A POSSIBILITY, PLEASE DON'T TURN ME AWAY
IF ONLY WE COULD STAY LIKE THIS FOREVER
PLEASE REALIZE, THAT I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE, WAITING FOR YOU
I WANT TO BE SOMEONE WHO'S FIT TO BE BY HIS SIDE
Ishouyo
Scans

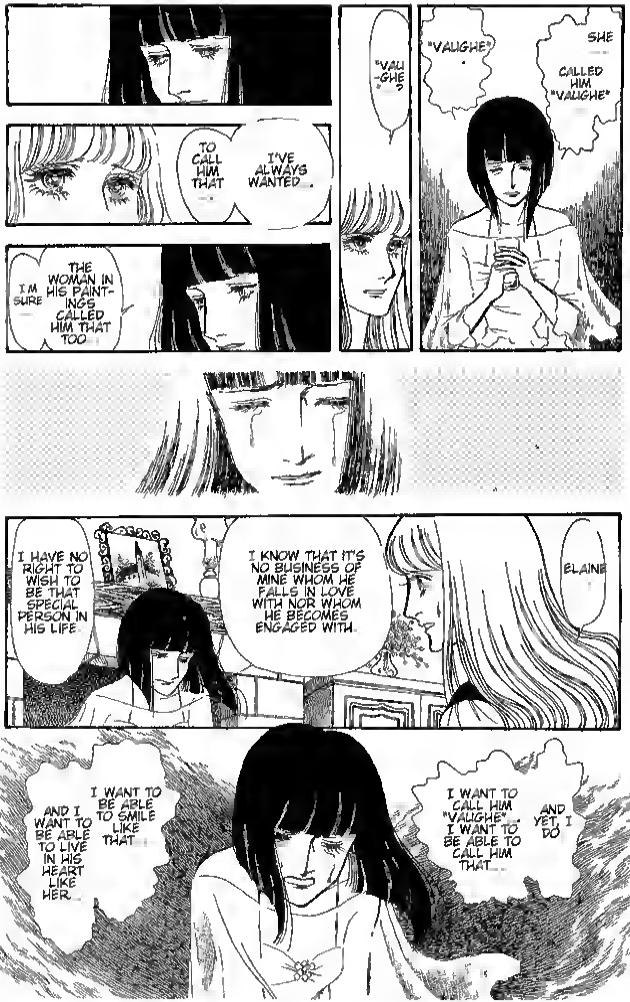
WELL, WELL ...
Haa ...
WHY HELLO THERE EARL. IT'S SUCH A SURPRISE TO SEE YOU AT A PLACE LIKE THIS
MADAME SHIFFONE
OH, AND WHO MAY I ASK, IS THIS LOVELY LADY BY YOUR SIDE?
WOULD YOU NOT INTRODUCE US?
HER NAME IS ELAINE AUMONT.
SHE'S ONE OF MY FEW LADY FRIENDS
OH, WELL PLEASURE TO MEET YOU
I'M A FORMER FIANCÉE OF VAUGHE'S
WHAT

INDEED, A GENTLEMAN LIKE YOUR FRIEND RIGHT HERE IS SO HARD TO FIND
THANKS TO HIM, I'M STILL QUITE THE SINGLE WOMAN
BUT APPARENTLY YOUR ESCORT HERE DIDN'T SHARE HIS FATHER'S FEELINGS, AND SO HE REFUSED TO GO THROUGH WITH THE MARRIAGE
HIS FATHER WAS VERY FOND OF ME, AND SO WE WERE ENGAGED
QUITE A SHOCK I GAVE YOU THERE, I SEE!
SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE
I FIND THAT SUCH A THING HAPPENS EVEN MORE IN THE PRESENCE OF A PRETTY YOUNG LADY
I APOLOGIZE WHEN A WOMAN PASSES SO, SHE DOES HAVE THE TENDENCY TO DERIVE PLEASURE FROM BEING CRUEL
IF YOU'D LIKE ME TO FORGIVE YOU, I SUGGEST YOU VISIT MY SALON SOMETIME
IT'S TOO LATE TO START OVER AGAIN, MY DEAR
SHIFFONE
She's a very beautiful woman
SHIFFONE...
OH MY, HOW ADORABLE. YOU'RE BLUSHING
DEAR, I SUGGEST YOU BE CAREFUL AROUND HIM
CHUCKLE

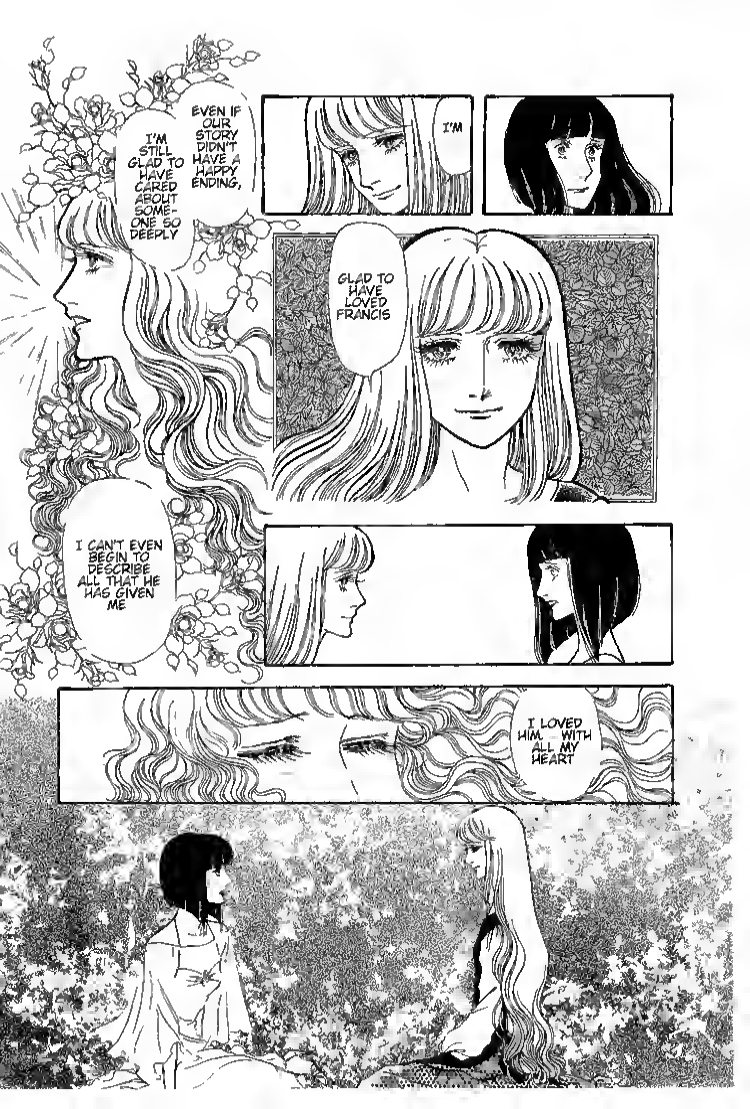
I WANT TO BE LOVED.
I WANT TO BE SOMEONE LOVED BY HIM.
HOW WAS SHE WHEN SHE WAS YOUNGER?
OH, HER VIBRANT PERSONALITY HASN'T CHANGED
SHE'S A WOMAN OF MANY TALENTS DARE I SAY SHE'S THE QUEEN OF HIGH SOCIETY
WHY WOULD HE TURN DOWN A PERSON LIKE THAT ?
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM SO LONG AGO
I WONDER IF IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE WOMAN IN HIS PAINTINGS
I WANT TO KNOW
I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM, AND YET I KNOW NOTHING
I WONDER IF THE WOMAN WE RAN INTO STILL CARES FOR VALIGHE
I WONDER WHAT HE THINKS OF ME?
I WONDER IF I'M LITTLE MORE THAN A CHILD TO HIM?

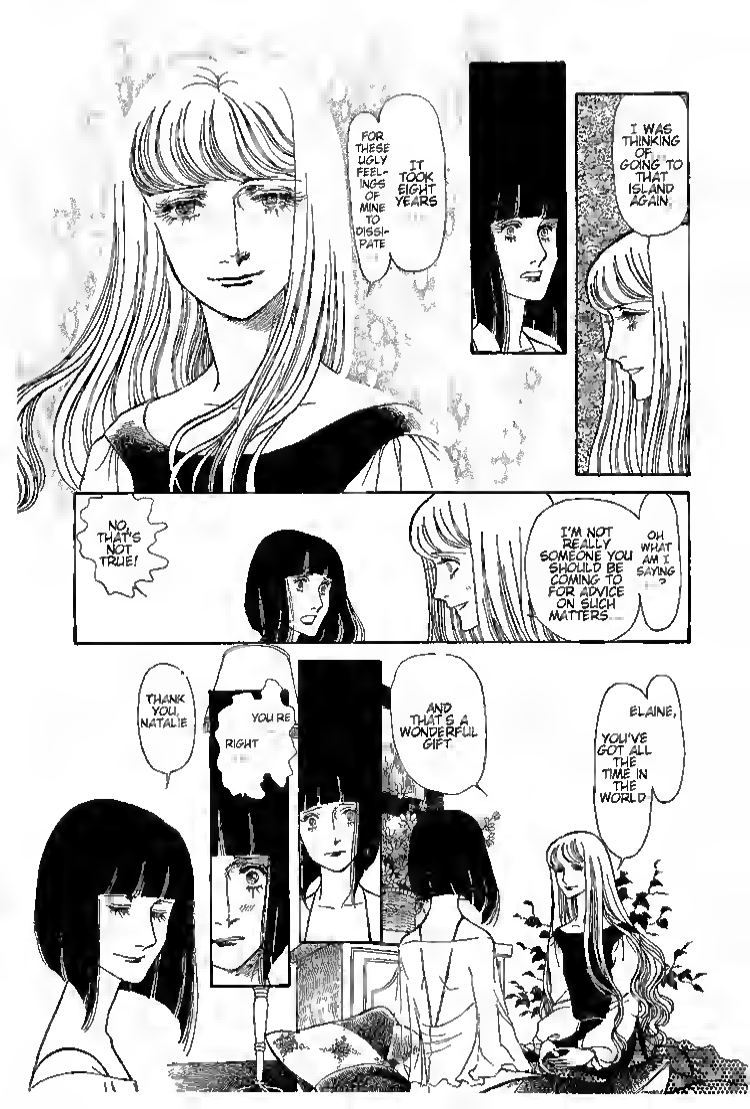
IT'S BEEN 8 YEARS AND MANY THINGS HAVE HAPPENED SINCE THEN.
THE FRANCIS IN MY MEMORIES HAS ALWAYS BEEN OF HIM OF THE PAST,
AND YET SOMEHOW, I'VE GROWN TO BE OLDER THAN HE WAS
THE WOUND'S FADED FROM MY CHEEK---
AND THE CHILD WHO COULDN'T STOP CRYING—
IS NOW AT THE AGE WHERE HE'S ATTENDING COLLÈGE
IT ALL FEELS SO STRANGE ...
DING-DONG
ELAINE
DIDN'T MONSIEUR LANBERRE SEE YOU HOME?
YES, HE MADE SURE TO SEE ME TO THE DOOR.
WHY HAVE YOU HAD SO MUCH TO DRINK?

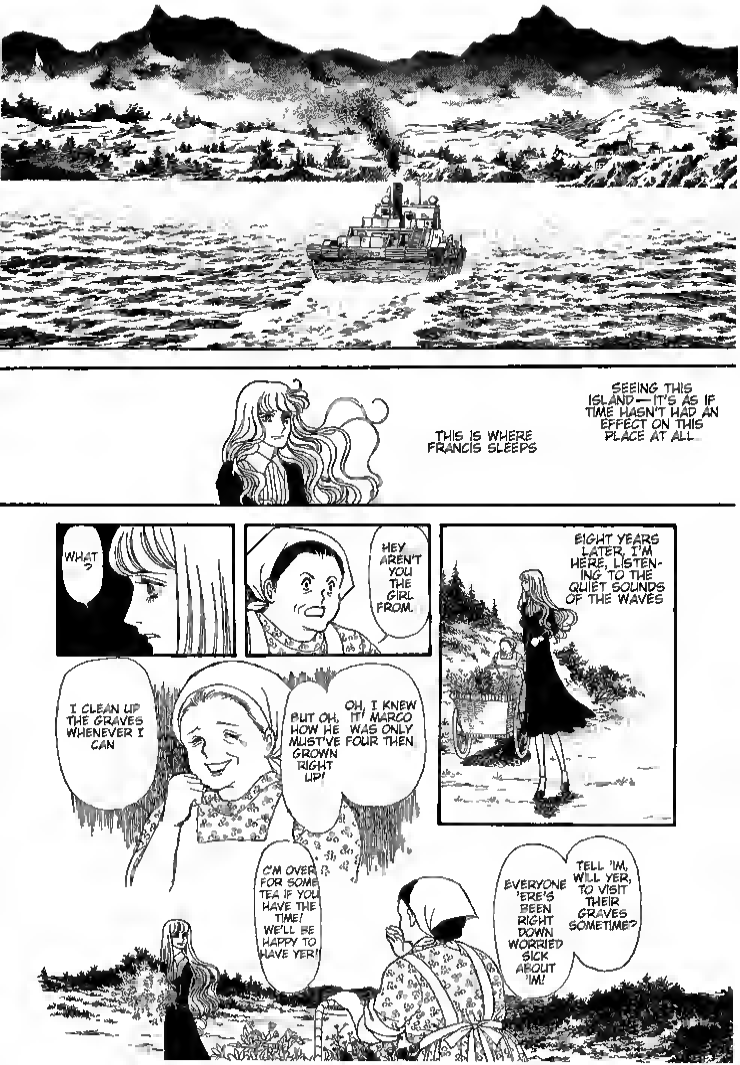
THERE'S NOT A THING THAT I COULD THINK OF TO COMPLAIN ABOUT!
THE BALLET PERFORMANCE WAS WONDERFUL AND DINNER WAS DELICIOUS.
ALWAYS THE PERFECT GENTLEMAN HE HAS NOT A FLAW!
HE SAW ME TO THE DOOR.
THANK YOU.
THAT'S RIGHT.
AND HE TURNED DOWN A CHANCE TO MARRY HER
AND SHE'S A BASICALLY THE BELLE OF THE BALL IN HIGH SOCIETY...
SHE WAS A LOVELY PERSON. SHE LOOKED WONDERFUL FOR HER AGE
I MET... MR LANBERRE'S EX-FIANCÉE
WHAT'S WRONG?

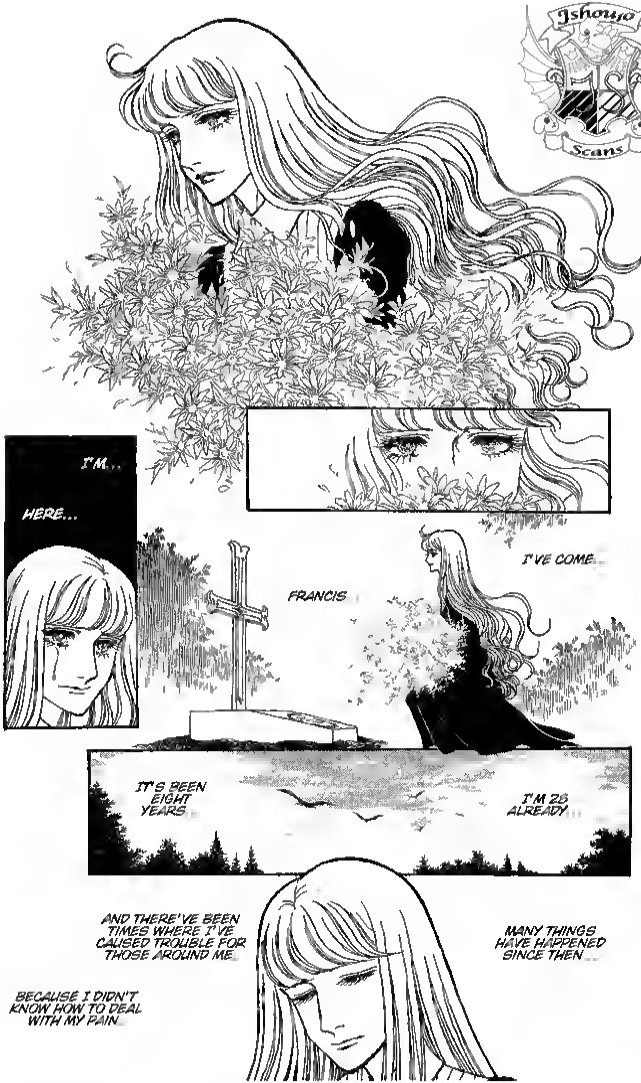

"VAUGHE"?
SHE CALLED HIM "VAUGHE"
"VAU-GHE"?
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO CALL HIM THAT
I'M SURE THE WOMAN IN HIS PAINTINGS CALLED HIM THAT TOO
ELAINE
I KNOW THAT IT'S NO BUSINESS OF MINE WHOM HE FALLS IN LOVE WITH NOR WHOM HE BECOMES ENGAGED WITH.
I HAVE NO RIGHT TO WISH TO BE THAT SPECIAL PERSON IN HIS LIFE.
I WANT TO CALL HIM "VAUGHE". I WANT TO BE ABLE TO CALL HIM THAT...
AND YET, I DO
I WANT TO BE ABLE TO SMILE LIKE THAT...
AND I WANT TO BE ABLE TO LIVE IN HIS HEART LIKE HER...

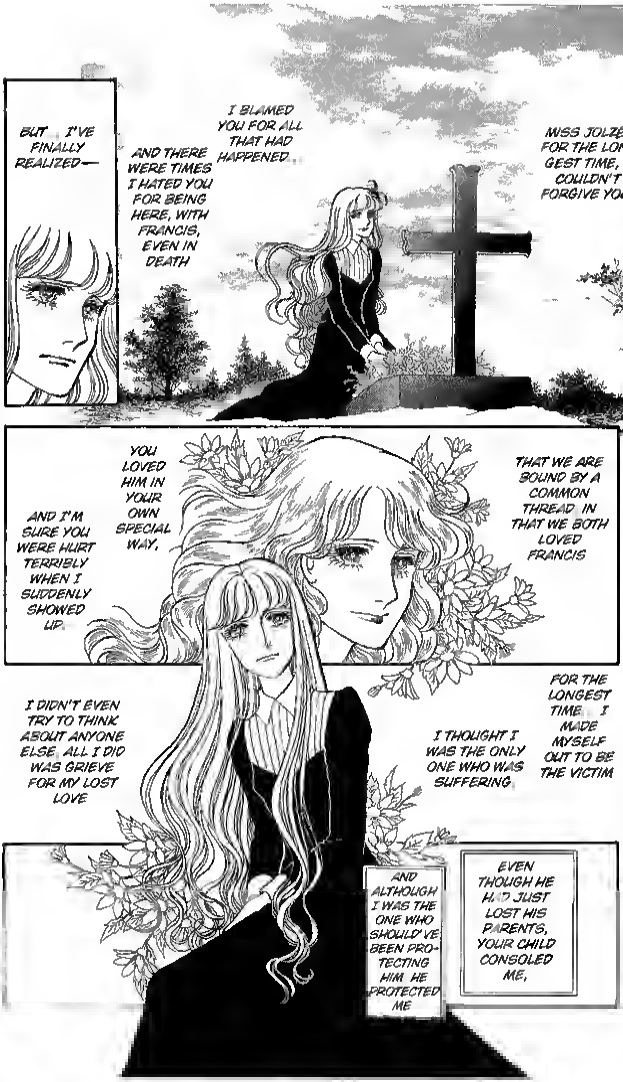
ELAINE
I'M SO EMBARRASSED
I GOT ALL WORKED UP TO GO OUT TONIGHT...
AND SOMEWHERE IN MY HEART I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE JUST MAYBE HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE ME AS A WOMAN.
EVEN IF HE TREATS ME KINDLY
IT'S NOT BECAUSE HE SEES ME AS A WOMAN
BUT I HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF
TO HIM, I'M PROBABLY YET STILL A CHILD
ELAINE...
IF I WERE A MAN, I WOULD NO DOUBT FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU
I'M SURE MONSIEUR LANGERRE
KNOWS WHAT A WONDERFUL PERSON YOU ARE
ELAINE, NOBODY HAS CONFIDENCE IN ONESELF RIGHT FROM THE START
YOU'LL EXPERIENCE TIMES WHEN YOU'RE FULL OF SELF-DOUBT BECAUSE YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THE OTHER PERSON IS THINKING
THE STRONGER YOUR FEELINGS ARE FOR THE OTHER, THINKING OF THE PAIN YOU WOULD HAVE TO ENDURE IN LOSING HIM WILL MAKE YOU WANT TO RUN AWAY FROM IT ALL
LOVE WILL GRANT YOU HAPPINESS BUT AT THE SAME TIME, IT ALSO GIVES BIRTH TO DOUBTS

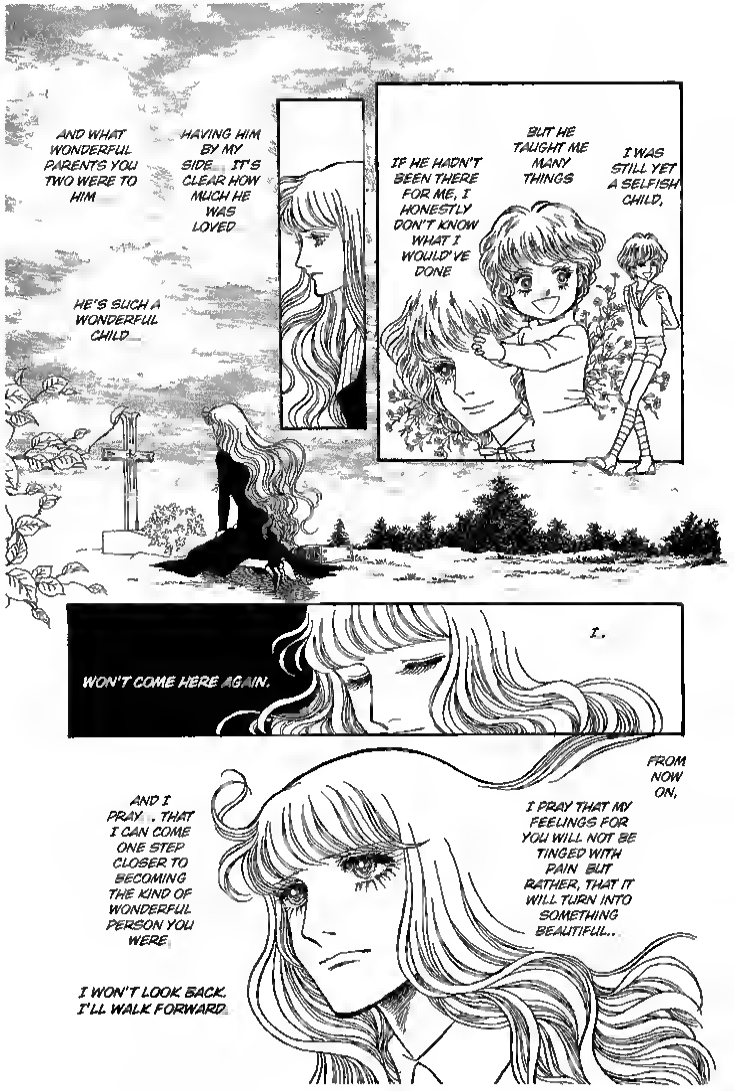

I'M
EVEN IF OUR STORY DIDN'T HAVE A HAPPY ENDING,
I'M STILL GLAD TO HAVE CARED ABOUT SOMEONE SO DEEPLY
GLAD TO HAVE LOVED FRANCIS
I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO DESCRIBE ALL THAT HE HAS GIVEN ME
I LOVED HIM WITH ALL MY HEART

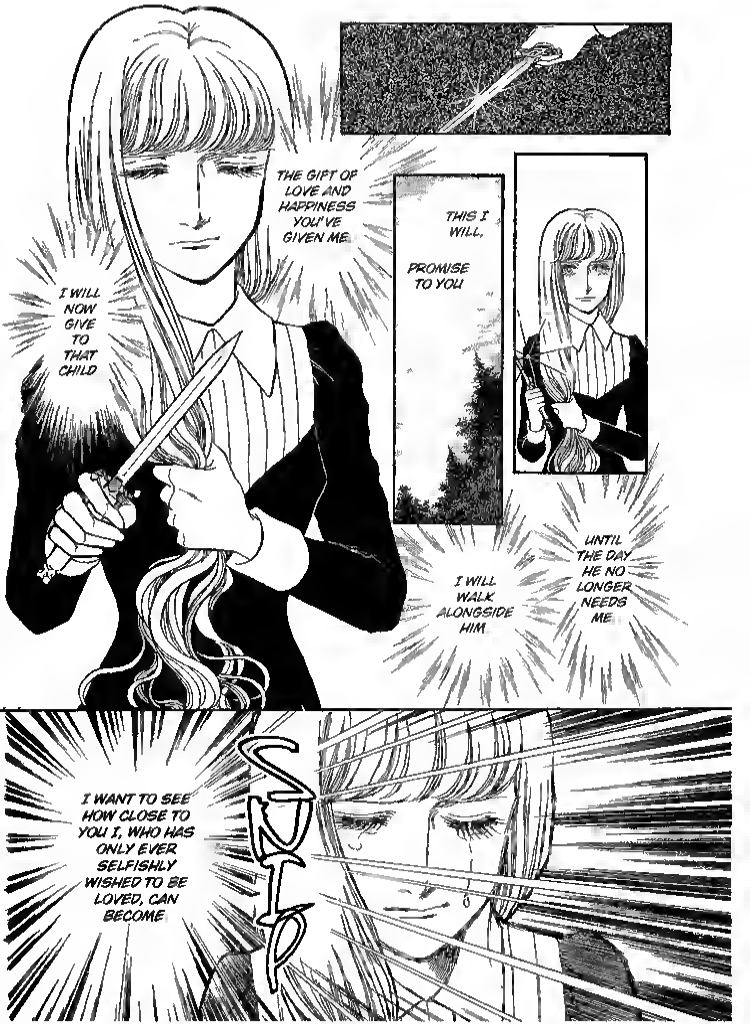

I WAS THINKING OF GOING TO THAT ISLAND AGAIN.
IT TOOK EIGHT YEARS FOR THESE UGLY FEELINGS OF MINE TO DISSIPATE
OH WHAT AM I SAYING?
I'M NOT REALLY SOMEONE YOU SHOULD BE COMING TO FOR ADVICE ON SUCH MATTERS
NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE!
ELAINE, YOU'VE GOT ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD
AND THAT'S A WONDERFUL GIFT
YOU'RE RIGHT
THANK YOU, NATALIE

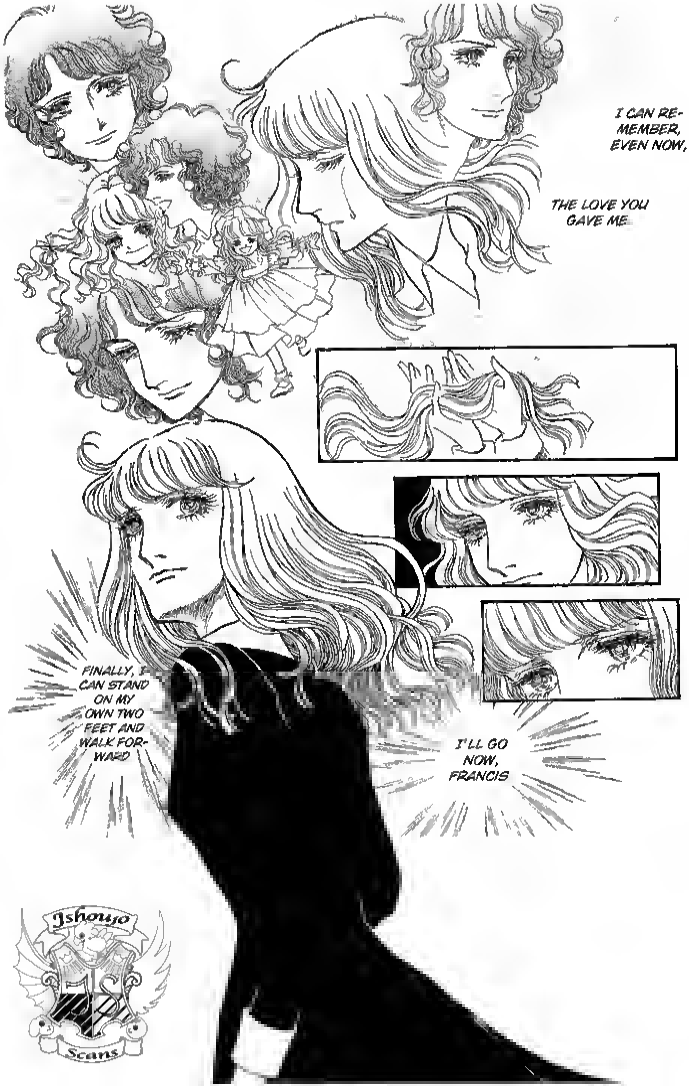

SEEING THIS ISLAND — IT'S AS IF TIME HASN'T HAD AN EFFECT ON THIS PLACE AT ALL
THIS IS WHERE FRANCIS SLEEPS
EIGHT YEARS LATER, I'M HERE, LISTENING TO THE QUIET SOUNDS OF THE WAVES
HEY, AREN'T YOU THE GIRL FROM...
WHAT?
OH, I KNEW IT! MARCO WAS ONLY FOUR THEN.
BUT OH, HOW HE MUST'VE GROWN RIGHT UP!
I CLEAN UP THE GRAVES WHENEVER I CAN
TELL 'IM, WILL YER, TO VISIT THEIR GRAVES SOMETIME?
EVERYONE 'ERE'S BEEN RIGHT DOWN WORRIED SICK ABOUT 'IM!
C'M OVER FOR SOME TEA IF YOU HAVE THE TIME! WE'LL BE HAPPY TO HAVE YER!


Jshoujo
Scans
I'M...
HERE...
FRANCIS
I'VE COME...
IT'S BEEN EIGHT YEARS...
I'M 28 ALREADY...
AND THERE'VE BEEN TIMES WHERE I'VE CAUSED TROUBLE FOR THOSE AROUND ME...
MANY THINGS HAVE HAPPENED SINCE THEN...
BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH MY PAIN...

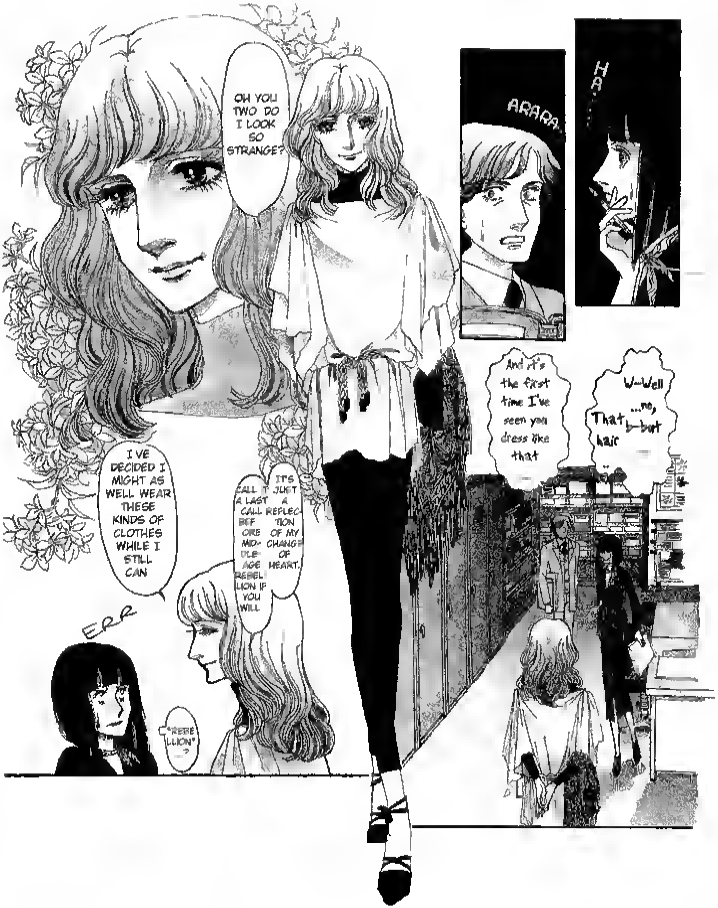

MISS JOLZE, FOR THE LONGEST TIME, I COULDN'T FORGIVE YOU
I BLAMED YOU FOR ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED
AND THERE WERE TIMES I HATED YOU FOR BEING HERE, WITH FRANCIS, EVEN IN DEATH
BUT... I'VE FINALLY REALIZED—
THAT WE ARE BOUND BY A COMMON THREAD IN THAT WE BOTH LOVED FRANCIS
YOU LOVED HIM IN YOUR OWN SPECIAL WAY.
AND I'M SURE YOU WERE HURT TERRIBLY WHEN I SUDDENLY SHOWED UP.
FOR THE LONGEST TIME, I MADE MYSELF OUT TO BE THE VICTIM
I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS SUFFERING
I DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO THINK ABOUT ANYONE ELSE. ALL I DID WAS GRIEVE FOR MY LOST LOVE
EVEN THOUGH HE HAD JUST LOST HIS PARENTS, YOUR CHILD CONSOLED ME,
AND ALTHOUGH I WAS THE ONE WHO SHOULD'VE BEEN PROTECTING HIM, HE PROTECTED ME

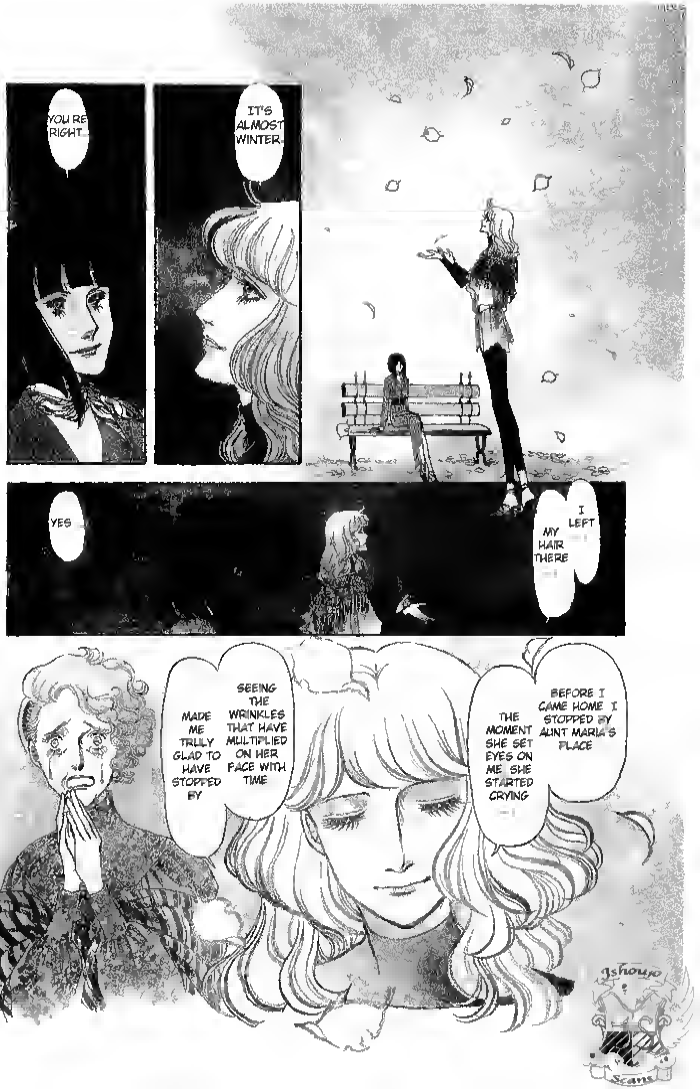

AND WHAT WONDERFUL PARENTS YOU TWO WERE TO HIM
HAVING HIM BY MY SIDE... IT'S CLEAR HOW MUCH HE WAS LOVED
HE'S SUCH A WONDERFUL CHILD...
IF HE HADN'T BEEN THERE FOR ME, I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD'VE DONE
BUT HE TAUGHT ME MANY THINGS
I WAS STILL YET A SELFISH CHILD,
I.
WON'T COME HERE AGAIN.
FROM NOW ON,
I PRAY THAT MY FEELINGS FOR YOU WILL NOT BE TINGED WITH PAIN BUT RATHER, THAT IT WILL TURN INTO SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL..
AND I PRAY . . THAT I CAN COME ONE STEP CLOSER TO BECOMING THE KIND OF WONDERFUL PERSON YOU WERE.
I WON'T LOOK BACK. I'LL WALK FORWARD.

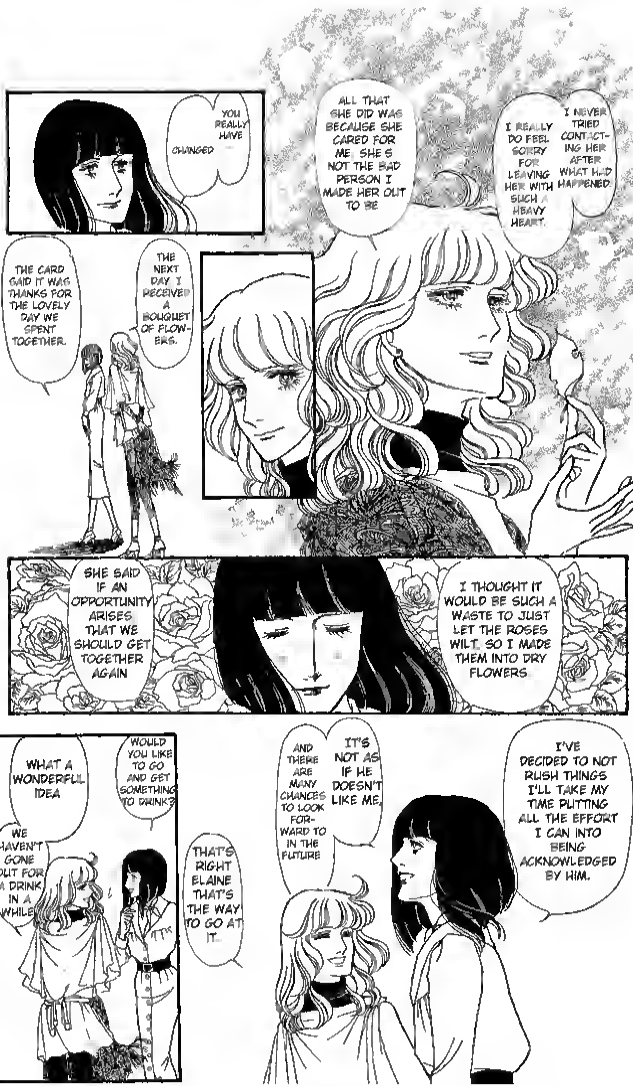

THE GIFT OF LOVE AND HAPPINESS YOU'VE GIVEN ME
I WILL NOW GIVE TO THAT CHILD
THIS I WILL, PROMISE TO YOU
I WILL WALK ALONGSIDE HIM
UNTIL THE DAY HE NO LONGER NEEDS ME
I WANT TO SEE HOW CLOSE TO YOU I, WHO HAS ONLY EVER SELFISHLY WISHED TO BE LOVED, CAN BECOME
SNIP


I CAN REMEMBER, EVEN NOW,
THE LOVE YOU GAVE ME
FINALLY, I CAN STAND ON MY OWN TWO FEET AND WALK FORWARD
I'LL GO NOW, FRANCIS
Ishonjo Seans

Shoujo Scans
Credits
Translator
Oceansportrait
Proofreader
Mars
Cleaner
Alicca & Oceansportrait
Typesetter
Alicca & Oceansportrait
QCer
Oceansportrait & Anya
Chapter 11
Suna no Shiro


OH YOU TWO DO I LOOK SO STRANGE?
I'VE DECIDED I MIGHT AS WELL WEAR THESE KINDS OF CLOTHES WHILE I STILL CAN
ERR
"REBELLION"?
I'LL CALL IT A LAST CALL REFLECTION OF MY MIDDLE AGE REBELLION IF YOU WILL
IT'S JUST A REFLECTION OF MY CHANGE OF HEART.
ARARA
HA...
And it's the first time I've seen you dress like that
U-Well ...no, That b-but hair ..

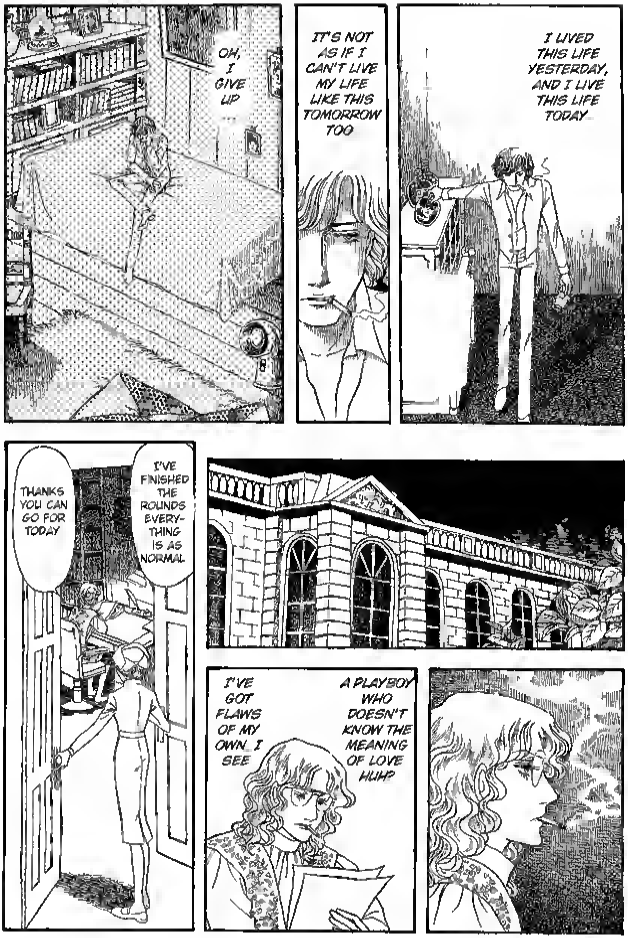

YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT'S ALMOST WINTER.
I LEFT MY HAIR THERE
YES
BEFORE I CAME HOME I STOPPED BY AUNT MARIA'S PLACE
THE MOMENT SHE SET EYES ON ME SHE STARTED CRYING
SEEING THE WRINKLES THAT HAVE MULTIPLIED ON HER FACE WITH TIME
MADE ME TRULY GLAD TO HAVE STOPPED BY

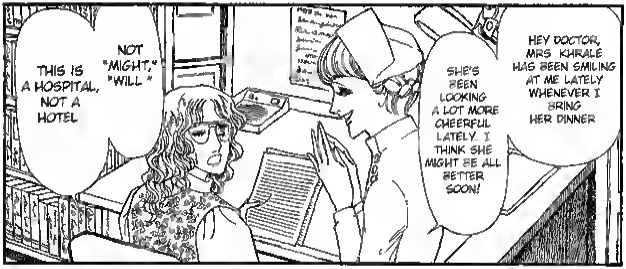

YOU REALLY HAVE CHANGED
ALL THAT SHE DID WAS BECAUSE SHE CARED FOR ME. SHE'S NOT THE BAD PERSON I MADE HER OUT TO BE
I REALLY DO FEEL SORRY FOR LEAVING HER WITH SUCH A HEAVY HEART.
I NEVER TRIED CONTACTING HER AFTER WHAT HAD HAPPENED
THE CARD SAID IT WAS THANKS FOR THE LOVELY DAY WE SPENT TOGETHER.
THE NEXT DAY I RECEIVED A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS.
SHE SAID IF AN OPPORTUNITY ARISES THAT WE SHOULD GET TOGETHER AGAIN
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SUCH A WASTE TO JUST LET THE ROSES WILT, SO I MADE THEM INTO DRY FLOWERS
WHAT A WONDERFUL IDEA
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO AND GET SOMETHING TO DRINK?
WE HAVEN'T GONE OUT FOR A DRINK IN A WHILE
IT'S
THAT'S RIGHT ELAINE THAT'S THE WAY TO GO AT IT.
AND THERE ARE MANY CHANCES TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN THE FUTURE
IT'S NOT AS IF HE DOESN'T LIKE ME.
I'VE DECIDED TO NOT RUSH THINGS I'LL TAKE MY TIME PUTTING ALL THE EFFORT I CAN INTO BEING ACKNOWLEDGED BY HIM.

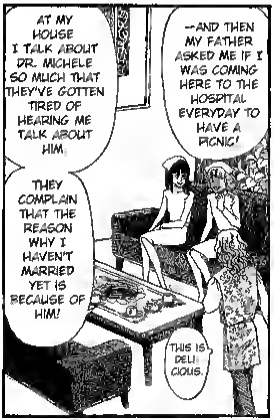
SHE'S FINALLY GOTTEN OVER HIM, HUH?
SO . . .
WELL OF COURSE, THEY ARE CHAPSHIPTERS AFTER ALL.
YES. YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN HOW SHOCKED WE WERE! IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH WOMEN CAN CHANGE JUST BY CHANGING THEIR HAIRSTYLE AND CLOTHING.
WOW
SO JUST, COLD TURKEY, HUH?
HEY! IS THAT ALL YOU EVER THINK ABOUT?!
SLAM
SNICKERS
IF YOU ATTACK NOW, YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY HAVE A CHANCE.
THAT MEANS NOW'S YOUR CHANCE, ROBERT-O!
I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK YOU, MY UNCLE, AND NATALIE ARE NOT TAKING ENOUGH OF AN INITIATIVE
ESPECIALLY MY UNCLE. IT'S BEEN LIKE WHAT 30 YEARS?
MOST PEOPLE, WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE, BECOME AWFULLY AWKWARD.
AND I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER.
C'MON, FESS UP. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN IT A BIT OF THOUGHT.
WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO THINK ABOUT?
I'D BE LYING IF I SAID THAT IDEA HASN'T CROSSED MY MIND.
W-WELL

ERR
WINTER'S COMING SOON YOU KNOW IT'LL BE AWFUL LONELY SLEEPING IN A BED BY YOURSELF
HOW LONG DO YOU PEOPLE PLAN ON STAYING SINGLE?
HIS PERSISTENCE IS ON A WORLD-CLASS LEVEL I TELL YA
AND IN HIS CASE, HE'S PINING OVER SOMEONE WHO BETRAYED HIM
CALL ME BEFORE YOU GET ANY AILMENTS OF THE HEART!
I'LL BE THERE TO EXAMINE YOU IN A HEARTBEAT
NO THAT'S ALL RIGHT... I'VE GOT SOME WORK TO CATCH UP ON.
I WANT TO STOP BY?
W-Well
AND WHO ARE YOU TO SAY?!
I remember it as clearly as yesterday—I was 14, and my uncle—
To tell you the truth... my body's incapable of having its desires quenched by a woman...
OH JUST DROP IT ALREADY
OH MY!
OH WILL YOU JUST SHUT UP!

IT'S GOTTEN COLD LATELY
I OPEN THE DOOR TO MY ROOM ALONE
AND I POUR MYSELF A CUP OF TEA
NOTHING HAS CHANGED IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY—
—AND YET, LATELY, I'VE BEEN LOOKING IN CORNERS FOR A KIND SMILE TO COME MY WAY
CLICK CLICK
CLICK
KIND HANDS TO CLEAN UP THE GLASSES
A WARM ROOM
MINDLESS TALKS,
IT'S NOT AS IF I'M NOT CAPABLE OF LIVING MY LIFE OUT ALONE
AND IT'S NOT AS IF THE LIFE I LEAD IS ANYTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT, BY ANY MEANS.
TOGGLE

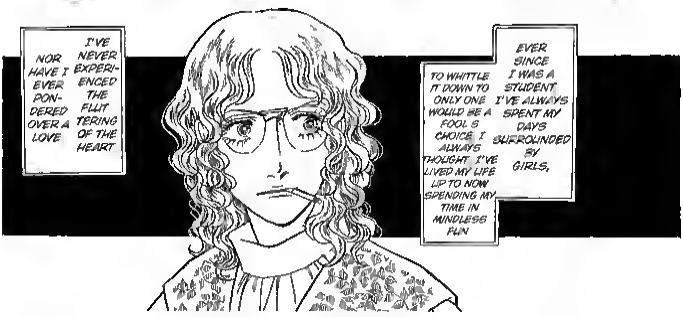

OH, I GIVE UP...
IT'S NOT AS IF I CAN'T LIVE MY LIFE LIKE THIS TOMORROW TOO
I LIVED THIS LIFE YESTERDAY, AND I LIVE THIS LIFE TODAY...
I'VE FINISHED THE ROUNDS EVERY-THING IS AS NORMAL
THANKS YOU CAN GO FOR TODAY
I'VE GOT FLAWS OF MY OWN, I SEE
A PLAYBOY WHO DOESN'T KNOW THE MEANING OF LOVE HUMP

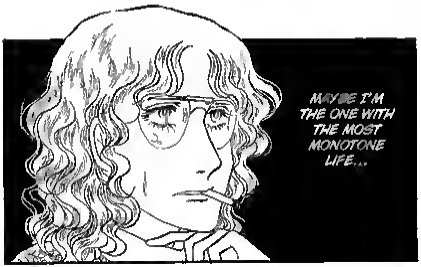

HEY DOCTOR, MRS KHRALE HAS BEEN SMILING AT ME LATELY WHENEVER I BRING HER DINNER
SHE'S BEEN LOOKING A LOT MORE CHEERFUL LATELY. I THINK SHE MIGHT BE ALL BETTER SOON!
NOT "MIGHT," "WILL"
THIS IS A HOSPITAL, NOT A HOTEL

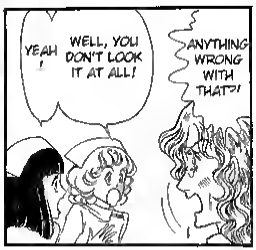

--AND THEN MY FATHER ASKED ME IF I WAS COMING HERE TO THE HOSPITAL EVERYDAY TO HAVE A PICNIC!
AT MY HOUSE I TALK ABOUT DR. MICHELE SO MUCH THAT THEY'VE GOTTEN TIRED OF HEARING ME TALK ABOUT HIM.
THEY COMPLAIN THAT THE REASON WHY I HAVEN'T MARRIED YET IS BECAUSE OF HIM!
THIS IS DELICIOUS.

OH, NO FAIR! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE TALKING TO THE DOCTOR?!
DR MICHELE WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A LATE NIGHT SNACK WITH US?

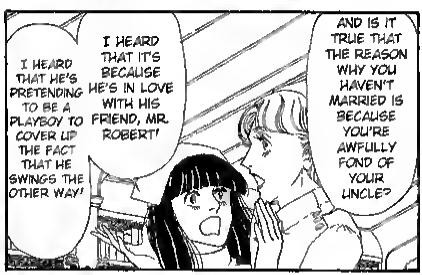
THANKS FOR ALWAYS LETTING ME HAVE A BITE
I BAKED A RASPBERRY PIE TODAY!
OH, AND I HAVE SOME HOT CHOCOLATE TOO.


EVER SINCE I WAS A STUDENT I'VE ALWAYS SPENT MY DAYS SURROUNDED BY GIRLS,
TO WHITTLE IT DOWN TO ONLY ONE WOULD BE A FOOL'S CHOICE. I ALWAYS THOUGHT I'VE LIVED MY LIFE UP TO NOW SPENDING MY TIME IN MINDLESS FUN
I'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED THE FLUTTERING OF THE HEART
NOR HAVE I EVER PONDERED OVER A LOVE


MAYBE I'M THE ONE WITH THE MOST MONOTONE LIFE...


YEAH!
WELL, YOU DON'T LOOK IT AT ALL!
ANYTHING WRONG WITH THAT?!

HEY DOCTOR, IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'RE PAST 30?


I HEARD THAT HE'S PRETENDING TO BE A PLAYBOY TO COVER UP THE FACT THAT HE SWINGS THE OTHER WAY!
I HEARD THAT IT'S BECAUSE HE'S IN LOVE WITH HIS FRIEND, MR. ROBERT!
AND IS IT TRUE THAT THE REASON WHY YOU HAVEN'T MARRIED IS BECAUSE YOU'RE AWFULLY FOND OF YOUR UNCLE?

SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE I WAS LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!
DON'T BOTHER ME I'M TRYING TO GET SOME ZS
FELHA-NNN!
Heyyy !
OVER HERE! OVER HERE!
THIS WAY!
YEAH
HEY, FELHAN. IS THAT TRUE?
WHEN I WENT TO ART CLASS MR. LANBERRE SAID SO!
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'RE GOING TO START PAINTING AGAIN?
SINCE YOU HAVEN'T PAINTED IN A LONG TIME, IT'S GOING TO TAKE A WHILE BEFORE YOU GET USED TO THE HANG OF IT AGAIN!
COME ON LET'S START TODAY!
THAT'S GREAT, FELHAN! HE SHOWED ME YOUR WORKS BEFORE AND THEY WERE AMAZING! I THOUGHT WHAT A WASTE IT WOULD BE IF YOU NEVER PAINTED AGAIN!
WHAT IS IT?

WHY ARE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT ME PAINTING AGAIN?
WELL, WHY NOT?
WHAT'S IT TO DO WITH YOU WHAT I DO OR DON'T DO?
HEY, COME ON NOW!
WHAT?
WELL, I'M NOT SURE HOW TO PUT IT.
BUT I LOVE ART, AND I THOUGHT YOUR ART WAS AMAZING...
AND THAT'S WHY I THINK IT'S SO GREAT THAT YOU'RE STARTING UP AGAIN!
A SPLENDID SPEECH YOU GAVE THERE...
OH NO!
YOU IDIOT! WHERE'RE YOU AIMING?!
SLAM
Wishing
Jusearra

Glare
Hey, you're the one who kicked it!
W- What should we do...?!
GET SOME SKILLS UNDER YOUR BELT
FELHAN
HUH? NOW THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU SEE EVERY DAY!
GEEZ FIRST YOU, AND NOW HIM.
I CAN'T EVEN GET A WINK OF A SLEEP!
That was scary!
P-Phew...!!!

THANK YOU GOOD WORK AS ALWAYS
WELL LET'S KEEP OUR FINGERS CROSSED THAT HIS GOOD BEHAVIOUR CONTINUES SHALL WE?
THE COUNCIL HAD BEEN DISCUSSING POSSIBLY HAVING TO EXPEL HIM THE NEXT TIME HE GOT INTO TROUBLE
HE S CAUSED QUITE A COMMOTION IN OUR SCHOOL OVER THE YEARS NO DOUBT
YES
YOU MUST BE RELIEVED THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP AS CLOSE OF AN EYE ON HIM.
FELHAN S BEEN KEEPING HIMSELF IN LINE LATELY.
CAN I HELP YOU WITH SOME THING?
CLICK
"THE NEXT TIME HE GETS INTO TROUBLE"
YES, CAN I HELP YOU
I-I'M RUI. I'M A ROOMMATE OF ANRI MATEALI'S
WHERE ?!
BEHIND DORM 2 O-OH AND PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE THAT I TOLD YOU THIS
HE STILL HASN'T GOTTEN OVER HIS GRUDGE AND SO HE ROUNDED UP A FEW OF HIS BUDDIES
ANRI JUST CALLED FELHAN OUT

HUH I APPLAUD YOU FOR HAVING ENOUGH GUTS TO ACTUALLY SHOW UP.
WHAT'D YOU JUST SAY?!
YOU CAN'T DO ANY-THING WITHOUT YOUR POSSE HUH?
WHAT IS THIS A PRE-SCHOOLER'S FIELD TRIP?
I'VE GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO THAN TO HANG AROUND WITH A BUNCH OF LACKEYS LIKE YOU.
YOU UPPER-CLASS-MAN HOT-SHOTS
IF YOU'RE GONNA HAVE A GO AT ME YOU MIGHT AS WELL
I'VE BEEN MEAN-ING TO GIVE YOU A TASTE OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE EVER SINCE YOU MADE THE MIS-TAKE OF CROSS-ING PATHS WITH ME!
YOU BAS-TARD!

WHOA!
OW!
Take that!
DAMN IT!
HOW DOES THAT FEEL, HUH FELHAN? YOU TALK BIG, BUT WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN A SCUM!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT! DON'T LET GO OF HIM!
PUNCH

PUNCH
HOW DOES BEING ON THE RECEIVING END FEEL FOR A CHANGE, HUH?!
KICK
WALLOP
HEY, THIS LOOKS BAD THAT'S THE DORM MANAGER.
STOP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
YOU'RE STUDENTS OF VAUGHN ROZE! HAVE SOME DIGNITY!
HAVE YOU NO SHAME?!

HEHEHEHE...
I'M NOT GOING TO BE SATISFIED UNTIL I MESS HIM UP REAL GOOD
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GET HURT, I SUGGEST YOU STAY BACK
A-Ami...!
HAH "VAUGHN ROZE" T WHAT A DON'T JOKE! TRY TO GET IN MY WAY.
STOP THIS FOOL-ISH-NESS!
C-Cut it out, Ami..
I WAS SER-IOUS YOU KNOW
YOU FEELING REAL SCARED NOW, FELHAM?
HOW PATHE-TIC.
DON'T UNDER-ESTI-MATE WHAT I CAN DO!!!

I'LL KILL YOU!
NOOO!
Ah...Ah ...Ahh...
Ah...
EDWIN!

STOP IT, FELHAN!
Y-YOU LITTLE
We were the ones that were set up!
F-Forget you! Ami, you're on your own!
GET A HOLD OF YOUR-SELF!
OR DO YOU WANT TO GET KICKED OUT OF THIS SCHOOL?!
Because everyone was making fun of me...
I-I... was just... so angry ...
I couldn't stand it
AHH HH!!
AGHH HHH!
Ah... Ah...

You guys...have these looks on your faces...like you're able to do anything,
But I... I...
IT'S BECAUSE THAT WE ARE TRYING OUR BEST TO
WE CAN'T DO ANY THING
GEEZ
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS THE MAFIA? PLAYING AROUND WITH KNIVES?
YOU SHOULD JUST BE LUCKY YOU WERE ABLE TO GET OFF WITH THE WOUNDS THAT YOU DID
Ouch!
Slap!
FELHAN, WHEN ARE YOU EVER GOING TO GET YOUR LIFE BACK ON TRACK?
I'M SORRY, DR. ANTON, FOR WHAT HAPPENED
WELL THERE WOULD BE NO USE IN GOING AROUND DUSTING UP A STORM...
SINCE YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ON THE RECEIVING END OF THOSE WOUNDS
FELHAN, STAY BY HIS SIDE, WON'T YOU?
YOU SHOULD LIE DOWN FOR A BIT THOUGH. YOU'RE STILL BLEEDING PRETTY HEAVILY.

Uuu
A LITTLE...
DOES IT HURT?
YOU KNOW, IT'S REALLY NO BUSINESS OF MINE HOW SERIOUSLY YOU TAKE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A DORM MANAGER, BUT I SUGGEST THAT YOU DON'T STICK YOUR NECK OUT WHERE IT DOESN'T BELONG.
YOU KNEW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN GETTING INVOLVED, DIDN'T YOU?
I HEARD THAT YOU'RE GOING TO START UP PAINTING AGAIN.
I JUST DIDN'T WANT FOR A PETTY FIGHT TO END UP PUTTING AN END TO THAT

WHAT'S IT TO YOU WHETHER I GET KICKED OUT OF SCHOOL OR I START UP PAINTING AGAIN?!
WOULD YOU STOP ACTING LIKE YOU'RE MY OLDER BROTHER?!
LOOK CLOSELY! CAN YOU HONESTLY SAY YOU SEE A RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN US?!
I WAS A KID BORN BETWEEN MY MOTHER AND SOME GUY SHE HAD AN AFFAIR WITH!
JUST KNOW THIS. IF YOU CONSIDER US SIBLINGS, THEN I'D WISH YOU'D JUST STOP.
A MAN WHO HAD THE SAME COLOUR OF HAIR AS YOUR FATHER DID!
I WOULDN'T WANT SOMEONE LIKE YOU AS A BROTHER ANYWAY.
SICK OF THIS

HAHA...
WE'RE... NOT BROTHERS ...?
WHAT A LAUGH!
HE BELIEVED THAT WE WERE RELATED FOR TWO YEARS ...
AND NOT ONLY THAT, HE COVERED MY ASS FROM GETTING HURT
WHAT A FOOL! IF ANYTHING, I FEEL PITY FOR HIM!

HERE COMES THE BELLE-OF-THE BALL!
THANK YOU ALL FOR GATHERING HERE TONIGHT
I'M SO HONOURED THAT YOU COULD MAKE IT HERE TONIGHT.
SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL
NO KIDDING I'M A WOMAN AND EVEN MY HEART'S FLUTTERING!
IT'S BEEN 10 YEARS SINCE I BEGAN WRITING
ALONG THE WAY I'VE BEEN SUPPORTED BY MANY PEOPLE. I COULDN'T HAVE COME THIS FAR WITHOUT THEM.

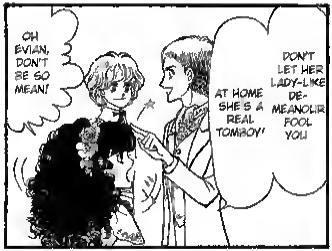
I'D ESPECIALLY LIKE TO THANK MY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF MR. ROBERT BRUET,
AND MY EDITOR AND DEAR FRIEND MRS. ELAINE AUMONT,
WORDS AREN'T ENOUGH TO EXPRESS HOW INDEBT I AM TO YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME OVER THE YEARS
WHAT!
OH, NATALIE, SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO
DON'T BE SHY. LAP UP THE ATTENTION!
I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO READ YOUR LATEST WORK
IT WOULD BE A PLEASURE TO HAVE YOUR BOOK ON DISPLAY AS ONE OF THE RECOMMENDED READINGS
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
SHE IS PRACTICALLY GLOWING!
WHAT A WONDERFUL PARTY. I WOULDN'T MIND HAVING ONE LIKE IT EVERY DAY!
NO KIDDING!

HEY NOW
YOU'VE FALLEN FOR HER ALL OVER AGAIN OR WHAT? YOUR EYES ARE PRACTICALLY BRIMMING WITH ADMIRATION FOR HER.
SO,
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
Huh?
ALTHOUGH I CAN'T SAY I'M NOT A BIT DISAPPOINTED THAT I WON'T GET TO HAVE SUCH A LOVELY LADY FOR A PATIENT!
WELL IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S NO NEED FOR ME TO BE HER DOCTOR!
NATALIE, THIS IS SHARMAN COCO FROM COCO'S BOOKSTORE THE STORE THAT HAS BEEN SELLING MANY COPIES OF YOUR BOOKS.
A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU...
THE PLEASURE IS MINE, MONSIEUR COCO
I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS CAPABLE OF MAKING GROWN MEN WEEP!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN WHAT PEOPLE USED TO SAY ABOUT ME BACK WHEN WE WERE IN GRADUATE SCHOOL!
Hey !
SO YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO COMPLAIN ABOUT WHO HITS ON HER!
SHE'S STILL SINGLE!
OH GO JUMP OFF A BRIDGE!
THINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED MUCH SINCE THEN-- I GUESS THAT MEANS I STILL HAVE SOME GROWING UP TO DO HUH?
I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT I'VE ALWAYS HAD A FONDNESS FOR TAKING WHAT IS SOMEONE ELSE'S

EVIAN!
NICE TO MEET YOU!
THIS IS MY ELDEST SON EVIAN
OUR ENTIRE FAMILY'S SUCH A BIG FAN OF YOURS
YO!
IS THAT RIGHT?
THIS IS THE BOY I TOLD YOU ABOUT EARLIER HIS NAME'S FRANCIS HE WAS THE CENTRAL FIGURE IN THE T O ROOM FIASCO
HE'S THE ASSISTANT DORM MANAGER AT MY SCHOOL! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D RUN INTO HIM HERE!
IS HE A FRIEND OF YOURS?
YEAH
WOW! WHAT AN AMAZING PERSON! I WOULD BE PROUD TOO TO BE ABLE TO HAVE SOMEONE LIKE THAT AS MY GUARDIAN!
I WILL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT THEN THANK YOU
DON'T WORRY. HE'S VERY POPULAR
HOW IS FRANCIS DOING AT SCHOOL?
I CAN'T HELP BUT BE WORRIED ABOUT HOW HE'S FITTING IN.

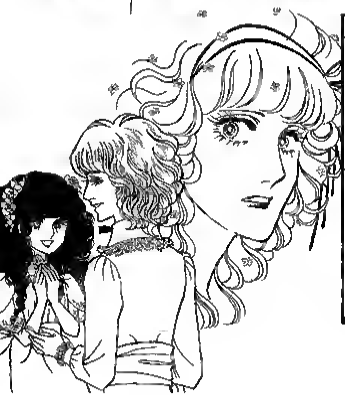
TO ME, SHE'S JUST A SPOILED PRINCESS
WELL, I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THE PRETTY PART BUT YOU'LL SEE FOR YOURSELF
IS SHE THE ONE REMI WAS GUSHING ABOUT HOW PRETTY SHE IS?
OH YEAH. I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO MY SISTER! SHE'S HERE WITH ME TODAY
SHE'S A GIRL, SO SHE LOVES ATTENDING EVENTS LIKE THIS
MILLFINE!
WOW. SHE REALLY IS CUTE!
WHAT IS IT?
I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO A FRIEND OF MINE.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO WANDER OFF BY YOURSELF
WAIT EVIAN
Ashouna Scans

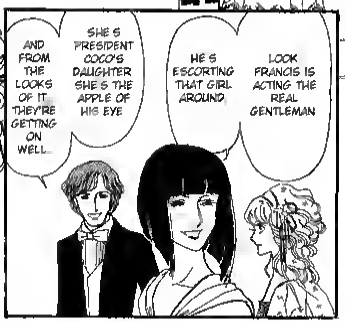
Huh ...?
YOU GOT IT! I'M IMPRESSED!
Got it!☆
YOU'RE FRANCIS, RIGHT? AM I RIGHT, EVIAN?
Stare
WOW SHE HAS REALLY BIG EYES
I LOVE PEOPLE WITH BLONDE HAIR!
MY BROTHER TOLD ME HOW YOU HAVE LOVELY GOLDEN HAIR, AND THAT YOU HAVE A FACE THAT'S AS CUTE AS ANY GIRL'S!
I RECOGNIZED YOU RIGHT AWAY!
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME THING TO DRINK?
NICE TO MEET YOU TOO MILLFINE
MY NAME IS MILLFINE COCO I HOPE WE BECOME GOOD FRIENDS!
NICE TO MEET YOU, MONSIEUR FRANCIS
A FACE LIKE A GIRL'S HUH?
COME ON YOU HAVE YET TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF !
giggles


OH, EVIAN, DON'T BE SO MEAN!
AT HOME SHE'S A REAL TOMBOY!
DON'T LET HER LADY-LIKE DEMEANOUR FOOL YOU

I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE A TOAST WITH MY NEW FRIEND!
WOULD YOU MIND GETTING ME A GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE?

THEY'RE SUCH DOLLS!
OH, LOOK! WHAT A CUTE COUPLE...
ONCE REMI HEARS THAT I GOT TO TALK TO HER, HE'D PROBABLY TURN GREEN WITH ENVY!
SHE REALLY IS VERY CUTE
SHE'S PROBABLY A YEAR OR TWO YOUNGER THAN ME...
WAIT HERE. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK




AND FROM THE LOOKS OF IT THEY'RE GETTING ON WELL...
SHE'S PRESIDENT COCO'S DAUGHTER SHE'S THE APPLE OF HIS EYE
HE'S ESCORTING THAT GIRL AROUND
LOOK FRANCIS IS ACTING THE REAL GENTLEMAN

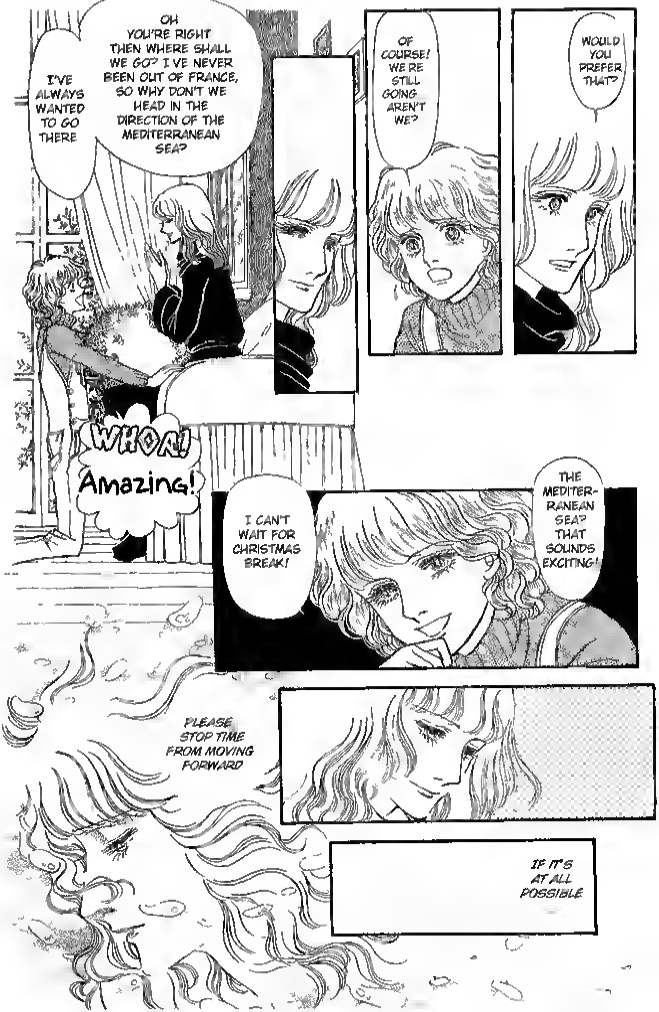
What ? O-Oh, y-yes...
CHILDREN BECOME KINDRED SPIRITS SO EASILY...
DON'T YOU THINK THEY'RE GETTING ALONG SPLENDIDLY?
WHAT A PRETTY CHILD
HER CHEEKS ARE THE COLOUR OF APPLES
WHAT DO YOU SAY? HOW ABOUT WE AGREE TO AN OFFICIAL UNION BETWEEN THEM?
AND I THOUGHT HE WOULD MAKE A WONDERFUL BOYFRIEND FOR MY DAUGHTER
I'VE HEARD ABOUT FRANCIS FROM EVIAN.
FRANCIS LOOKS FLUSHED BECAUSE IT'S HIS FIRST TIME ESCORTING A GIRL

Shoujo Scans
Credits
Translator
Oceansportrait
Proofreader
Mars
Cleaner
Alicca
Typesetter
Alicca
QCer
Oceansportrait & Anya
Suna no Shiro
Chapter 12

AND... THAT GIRL OFFICIALLY START COURTING
FRANCIS...
MY FRANCIS...
WHOM I RAISED EVER SINCE HE WAS FOUR...
WILL NO LONGER BE ONLY MINE.

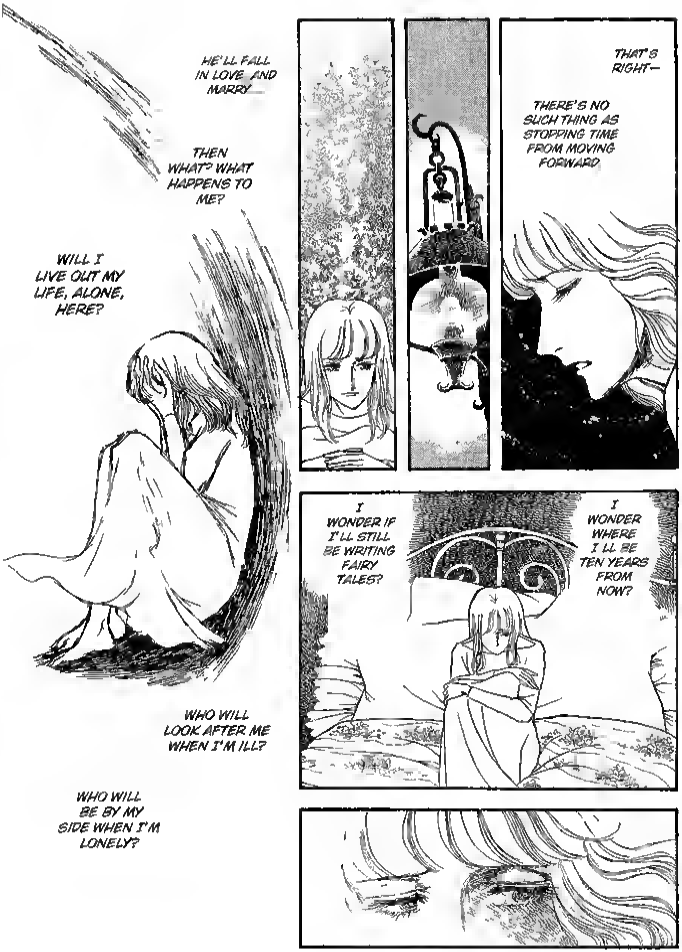
OH, OF COURSE. HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT EACH OTHER WILL RULE ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE
JUST SPEAKING FOR MY DAUGHTER, THOUGH, SHE'D PROBABLY BE ECSTATIC
AND SINCE HE LIVES IN A DORMITORY, THERE WOULDN'T BE VERY MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM TO GET WELL ACQUAINTED
OH I DON'T THINK IT SHOULD BE FOR US TO DECIDE
HE'S COME OF AGE WHEN IT'S NOT SURPRISING TO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND
OF COURSE THAT'S ONLY IF YOU HAVE THE TIME PLEASE DON'T FEEL OBLIGATED TO DO SO
HOW ABOUT THIS THEN? WOULD YOU NOT VISIT US DURING THE WINTER BREAK TO OUR VACATION HOME?
I'LL DISCUSS IT WITH HIM AND GET BACK TO YOU
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHAT DO I THINK ABOUT EVUN'S SISTER?
HER NAME WAS MILLFINE SOMETHING OR OTHER, RIGHT?
SHE'S SUCH A PRETTY CHILD. FRANCIS, WOULDN'T YOU WANT SOMEONE LIKE HER AS A GIRLFRIEND?
WELL YEAH, SURE I AGREE THAT SHE'S PRETTY. BUT I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT HER LIKE THAT.
WHY ARE YOU ASKING SOMETHING LIKE THIS OUT OF THE BLUE?
NO!
YOU SAID WE WERE GOING TO GO TRAVELLING DURING CHRISTMAS BREAK!
DID YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND? I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO IT TOO!
HER FATHER INVITED US TO SPEND WINTER BREAK AT THEIR VACATION HOME
DO YOU WANT TO GO?

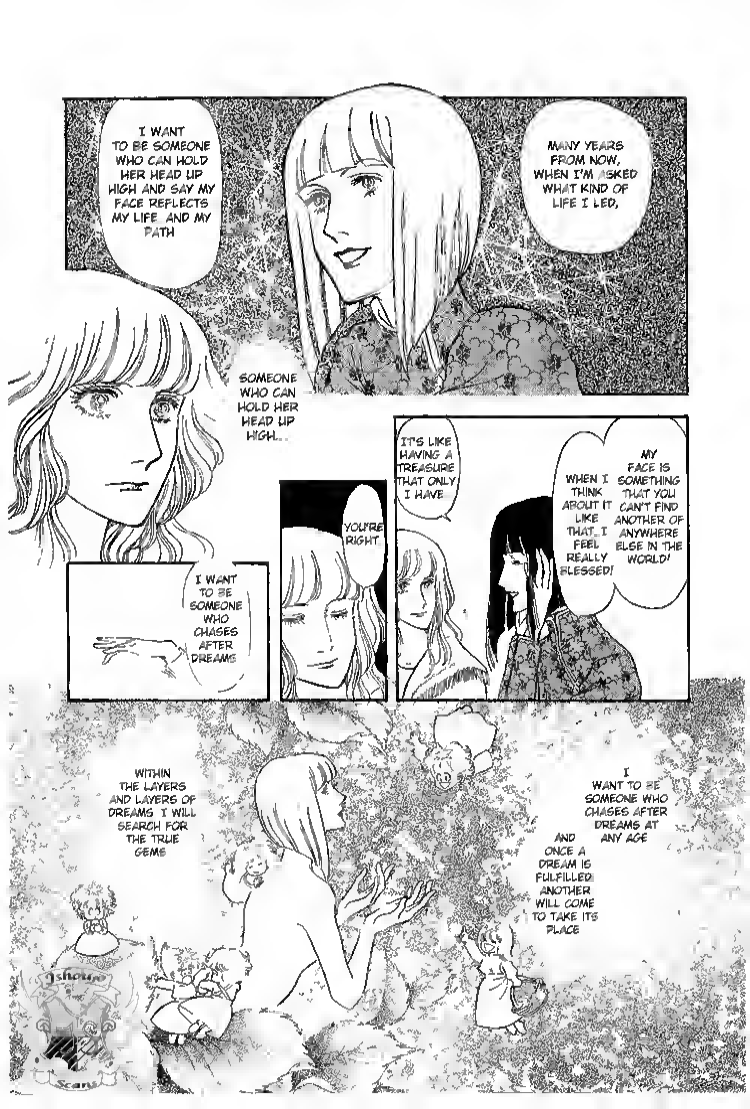

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GO THERE
OH YOU'RE RIGHT THEN WHERE SHALL WE GO? I'VE NEVER BEEN OUT OF FRANCE, SO WHY DON'T WE HEAD IN THE DIRECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA?
OF COURSE! WE'RE STILL GOING AREN'T WE?
WOULD YOU PREFER THAT?
WHOA!
Amazing!
I CAN'T WAIT FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK!
THE MEDITER-RANEAN SEA? THAT SOUNDS EXCITING!
PLEASE STOP TIME FROM MOVING FORWARD
IF IT'S AT ALL POSSIBLE

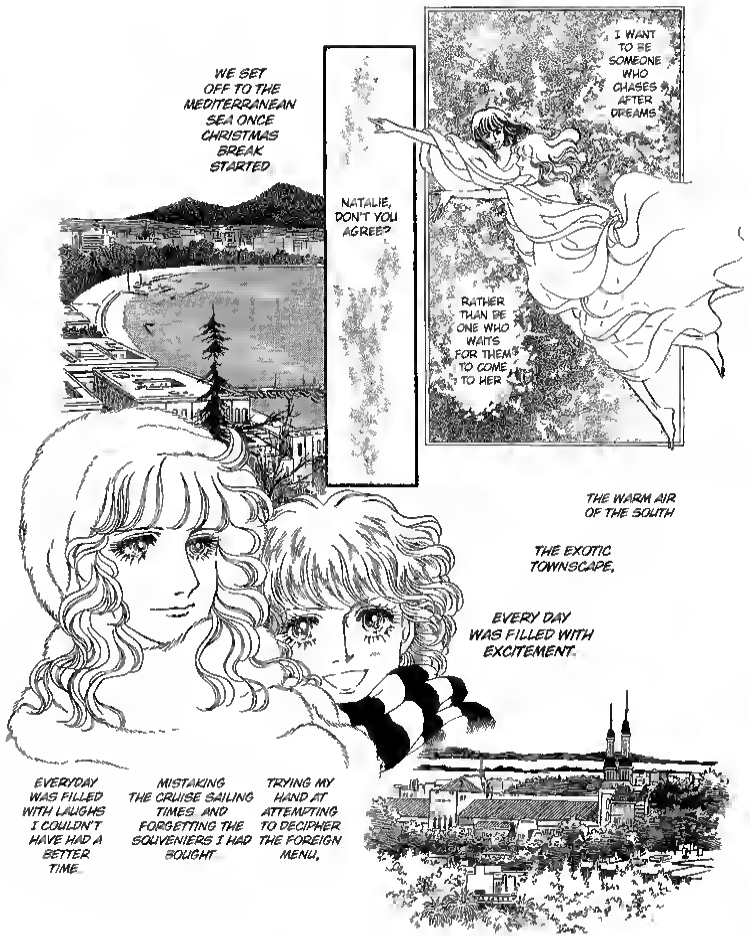
BAILLE
TOMMY
STOP TIME BEFORE HE FALLS IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE...
MY FACE WITHOUT MAKEUP,
HAS AGED WITHOUT ME NOTICING

I GET TIRED EASILY
AND MY SKIN COLOR ISN'T VERY GOOD EITHER.
OH, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IF I PUSH MYSELF EVEN THE SLIGHTEST BIT, I GET BAGS UNDER MY EYES
THE SUPPLENESS OF MY SKIN IS FADING
STOP IT!
AND HER LOVELY SMILE...
I COMPARE MYSELF TO HER YOUTH, HER ROSY CHEEKS...
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M BOTHERED BY HER.
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN STAY YOUNG FOREVER...
THERE ARE NO SURPRISES. I KNOW THAT AS THE DAYS PASS, I'LL GROW OLDER


HE'LL FALL IN LOVE AND MARRY...
THEN WHAT? WHAT HAPPENS TO ME?
WILL I LIVE OUT MY LIFE, ALONE, HERE?
WHO WILL LOOK AFTER ME WHEN I'M ILL?
WHO WILL BE BY MY SIDE WHEN I'M LONELY?
THAT'S RIGHT—
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS STOPPING TIME FROM MOVING FORWARD
I WONDER IF I'LL STILL BE WRITING FAIRY TALES?
I WONDER WHERE I'LL BE TEN YEARS FROM NOW?

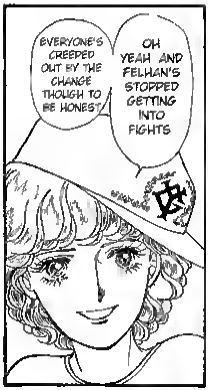
WELL, OF COURSE,
SINCE I'VE NEVER REALLY BEEN IN A SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP
REALLY ?
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT TOO
I FEEL DEPRESSED JUST LOOKING IN THE MIRROR SOMETIMES
AND ON THOSE SLEEPLESS NIGHTS I REALLY DO FEEL LONELY
THERE ARE TIMES I WONDER IF I CAN TRULY BE SATISFIED WITH A LIFE LIKE THIS
BUT
I WANT TO BE PROUD OF THE WAY I LOOK
I WANT TO BECOME SOMEONE WHO BECOMES MORE CHARMING WITH AGE AND SOMEONE WHO WEARS THE NUMEROUS WRINKLES THAT'LL COME WITH AGE LIKE A BADGE OF HONOR.
THIS IS HOW I CHOSE TO LEAD MY LIFE THERE S NO POINT IN HAVING REGRETS


I WANT TO BE SOMEONE WHO CAN HOLD HER HEAD UP HIGH AND SAY MY FACE REFLECTS MY LIFE AND MY PATH
MANY YEARS FROM NOW, WHEN I'M ASKED WHAT KIND OF LIFE I LED,
SOMEONE WHO CAN HOLD HER HEAD UP HIGH...
I WANT TO BE SOMEONE WHO CHASES AFTER DREAMS
YOU'RE RIGHT
IT'S LIKE HAVING A TREASURE THAT ONLY I HAVE
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT LIKE THAT, I FEEL REALLY BLESSED!
MY FACE IS SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN'T FIND ANOTHER OF ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD!
WITHIN THE LAYERS AND LAYERS OF DREAMS I WILL SEARCH FOR THE TRUE GEME
I WANT TO BE SOMEONE WHO CHASES AFTER DREAMS AT ANY AGE
AND ONCE A DREAM IS FULFILLED ANOTHER WILL COME TO TAKE ITS PLACE


I WANT TO BE SOMEONE WHO CHASES AFTER DREAMS
RATHER THAN BE ONE WHO WAITS FOR THEM TO COME TO HER
NATALIE, DON'T YOU AGREE?
WE SET OFF TO THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA ONCE CHRISTMAS BREAK STARTED
THE WARM AIR OF THE SOUTH
THE EXOTIC TOWNSCAPE,
EVERY DAY WAS FILLED WITH EXCITEMENT.
EVERYDAY WAS FILLED WITH LAUGHS I COULDN'T HAVE HAD A BETTER TIME.
MISTAKING THE CRUISE SAILING TIMES AND FORGETTING THE SOUVENIERS I HAD BOUGHT
TRYING MY HAND AT ATTEMPTING TO DECIPHER THE FOREIGN MENU,

I WONDER WHERE HE WENT AFTER THIS PLACE LAY IN RUINS?
TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO, THERE USED TO STAND A TEMPLE HERE THIS WAS WHERE GOD STOOD
YEAH
IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF WE COULD COME HERE AGAIN

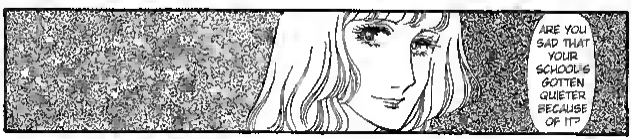
Well, so-my
You damn
EVERYDAY AFTER CLASSES WERE FINISHED, I WENT TO THE ART CLUB, AND CONTINUED MY GRAPPLES WITH THE CANVAS
THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEW ROOMMATES WERE ANNOUNCED, BUT I JUST ENDED UP SHARING ROOMS WITH FELHAN AGAIN.
THE FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER, WE BECAME 5TH YEAR STUDENTS, AND WE SWITCHED DORM ROOMS WITH THE THIRD YEARS TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE NEW STUDENTS
THE ONE WHO'S CHANGED THE MOST THOUGH WAS EDWIN
HE NO LONGER HELD A WALL UP AROUND HIMSELF, AND WHAT FILLED THAT VOID WAS AN EASY GOING SMILE
EVER SINCE THAT INCIDENT, HE HASN'T BEEN GETTING INTO ANY TROUBLES AROUND THE SCHOOL (EVEN THOUGH HIS SMOKING HABIT HASN'T CHANGED) THAT THE OTHERS AT MY SCHOOL WERE REALLY SURPRISED
Let's see.
Not bad not bad at all
I LOVED PAINTING, AND I'M SURE FELHAN FELT THE SAME WAY
Thanks to my skills as a doctor
MR. MICHELE SEEMED TO HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE OF HER RECOVERY HE EVEN BRAGGED THAT IT WAS
FELHAN'S MOTHER'S CONDITION SEEMED TO BE GETTING BETTER BIT BY BIT

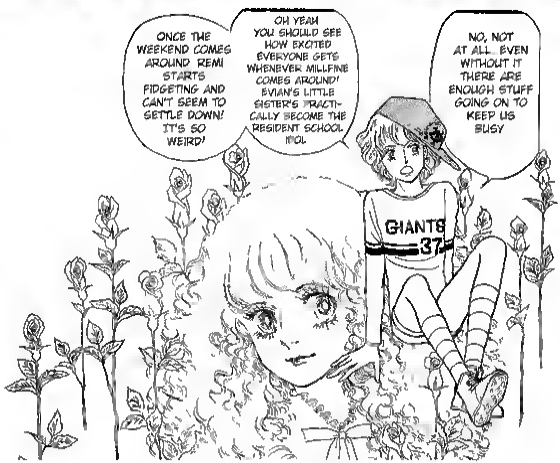


BUT THE COMPLAINTS AND THE GLARES THEY USED TO SHOOT EACH OTHER SEEMED TO HAVE STOPPED.
HMM... NOTHING MUCH HAS CHANGED ACTUALLY BETWEEN THEM.
AND SO HOW HAVE THEY BEEN LATELY ?

I KNEW THAT FELHAN DID SOMETHING TO RELIEVE THE BURDEN THAT EDWIN CARRIED WITHIN HIM,

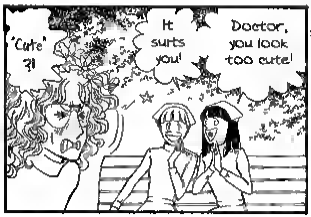
BUT THERE WAS NO WAY TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN THE TWO




ONCE THE WEEKEND COMES AROUND REMI STARTS FIDGETING AND CAN'T SEEM TO SETTLE DOWN! IT'S SO WEIRD!
OH YEAH YOU SHOULD SEE HOW EXCITED EVERYONE GETS WHENEVER MILLFINE COMES AROUND! EVIAN'S LITTLE SISTER'S PRACTICALLY BECOME THE RESIDENT SCHOOL IDOL
NO, NOT AT ALL. EVEN WITHOUT IT THERE ARE ENOUGH STUFF GOING ON TO KEEP US BUSY
GIANTS 37

NO WHY WOULD I?
DON'T YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
I'M MAKING THIS FOR JULIUS
FLOWERS
OH SO YOU'RE MAKING A FLOWER WREATH? THAT'S REALLY PRETTY!
IS IT? DO YOU THINK SO?
I AGREE! I'VE HEARD THAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT MOVING HER TO A THREE-PEOPLE DORM SOON!
MRS KHRALE HAS GOTTEN SO MUCH BETTER!

Oh...no... I'm okay
WHY DON'T YOU HELP HER PICK SOME FLOWERS?
HOW'S THIS? DON'T YOU THINK SHE'S IMPROVED A LOT?
SHE'S EVEN ABLE TO MAKE BASIC CONVERSATION NOW
AH
Part
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS APPROACH HER NATURALLY.
SHE'S EVEN STOPPED HAVING THE FITS SHE FREQUENTLY USED TO HAVE BEFORE
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF. SHE'S BEEN VERY CALM LATELY
DOCTOR
smile
GOOD AFTERNOON, MADAME KHALE
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD TODAY
MR MICHELE!
THAT'S A NICE LOOKING WREATH YOU'VE GOT GOING THERE
OH, FOR ME?
HERE
WELL, I'M HONOURED!


'Cute' ?!
It suits you!
Doctor, you look too cute!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
QUITE THE DASHING PRINCE I MAKE DON'T YOU THINK?

OKAY, EVERYONE! IT'S TIME TO HEAD INSIDE!
DINNER WILL BE SERVED. SO EVERYONE TO THE CAFETERIA!
CLAT CLAT
IT LOOKS PRETTY ON YOU.
Chuckles
FRANCIS, HOW ABOUT SOME TEA?
FELHAN
A STUBBORN BOY LIKE HIM PREFERS SOME TIME ALONE AT TIMES LIKE THIS.
OH, I'M SURE HE'LL BE JUST FINE
BUT WHAT ABOUT FELHAN?

SHE WAS SMILING AND BEING FRIENDLY WITH EVERYONE—
IT'S NOT AS IF SHE EVEN RECOGNIZED ME
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME SHE EVER SMILED AT ME.
...STILL...

FORGET HIM, MILLFINE LET'S GO ON A PICNIC!
HEY NO FAIR!
HEY MILLFINE, HOW ABOUT WE GO ON A DATE NEXT WEEKEND?
SORRY, BUT I NEED TO GET PERMISSION FROM MY DADDY BEFORE I CAN GO OUT WITH ANYONE!
YOU'RE PULLING THAT EXCUSE AGAIN?
MILLFINE'S HERE!
SHE'S LOOKING PRETTY, AS ALWAYS!
DID YOU REALLY TELL HER THAT?
nod nod
OF COURSE I DO! BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S SUCH A GREAT IDEA TO BRING HER HERE
HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT ABOUT YOUR OWN SISTER? DON'T YOU CARE ABOUT HER?
GRRR
PART OF THE REASON WHY EVERYONE'S ACTING LIKE THIS IS THEY HARDLY EVER GET TO SEE GIRLS IN GENERAL!
SHE'S DOTED ON BY EVERYONE, AND SHE'S LETTING THAT GET TO HER HEAD
JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE SHE'S GOING TO BECOME ONE HECK OF A PLAYGIRL!
I HAVEN'T SAID A WORD BUT ANYHOW, IF THEY'RE CAUSING SUCH A FUSS ABOUT HER NOW,
THINK HOW HECTIC IT WILL BE WHEN SHE REACHES OF AGE!

YOU REALLY DO SPOIL HER, DON'T YOU?
PERHAPS THERE'S SOMEONE HERE WHO'S CAUGHT HER FANCY?
SHE'S THE ONE WHO WANTED TO COME
IS FRANCIS HERE?!?! HAVE YOU HEARD?! EDWIN'S GOING AWAY TO ENGLAND!!
OH
WHAT'S UP, MILLFINE?
HE'S NOT COMING BACK!
NO, LIKE, FOR REAL!!!
ENGLAND? OH, YOU MEAN LIKE ON A VACATION?
WHEN I WENT TO THE TEACHER'S ROOM TO GET MY PERMISSION SLIP TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS STAMPED!
YES WAY! I OVERHEARD THEM TALKING ABOUT IT
No way

B-BUT...HE HASN'T SAID ANYTHING! NOT A WORD!
THAT'S A LIE!!
THAT'S WHEN I HEARD EDWIN AND A TEACHER TALKING ABOUT HOW HE'S GOING TO GO TO ENGLAND BEFORE THE SUMMER BREAK STARTS
W-WHO?
WHERE IS HE?!
THIS CAN'T BE TRUE!
FRANCIS!
Ah, h-he was just in the teacher's room
WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHO?! EDWIN, DUH!!
HE CAN'T BE MOVING TO ENGLAND!
AND THAT YOU WERE GOING TO CONTINUE SCHOOL HERE FOR ANOTHER YEAR!!
IT WAS ONLY JUST RECENTLY THAT YOU TOLD ME YOU HAD BEEN ACCEPTED INTO THE CLASSICS COURSE,

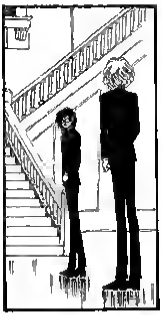
I KNEW THAT ALL ALONG
MY WEAKNESS WAS WHAT HAD BEEN HOLDING YOU BACK
THAT'S WHY I'M GLAD YOU'RE MOVING FORWARD
U-UM, I GUESS I'LL BE GOING NOW
HE WOULD'VE FOUND OUT SOONER OR LATER ANYWAY
HE REALLY LOOKS UP TO THE DORM MANAGER
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID ANYTHING
YEAH, NOW'S THE RIGHT TIME
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK BACK ANYMORE
ENGLAND, HUH?
GO ALONG YOUR OWN PATH IN LIFE
JUST AS YOU HAD A LONG TIME AGO
EDWIN !!
I-I'M SORR-

Why're you going away to England of all places!
H-How could you ...
I'M NOT GOING TO LISTEN TO YOU TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO ENGLAND!
DON'T YOU LIKE IT HERE? DID SOMEONE TRY TO BULLY YOU?
WHAT WONDERFUL TIMING THERE WAS SOMETHING I—
I GAVE THIS A LOT OF THOUGHT AND I—
HOW COULD YOU!! DON'T YOU CARE THAT YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE EVERYONE HERE!?!
You just told me the other day you were going to spend another year here!
Everyone's going to be so sad! Me...and Remi...Ewan, and everyone, they really care about you!
B-BUT EDWIN
CALM DOWN, FRANCIS
OTHER-WISE I WON'T BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN

I'M LEAVING
This can't be true... right?
SHE'S FINALLY BEGINNING TO OPEN HER EYES TO THE WORLD AROUND HER
MY MOTHER IS WANTING TO GO BACK TO HER HOME-TOWN
THAT IS WHERE WE CAN BEGIN OUR NEW STEP FORWARD
AND IT'LL BE A STEP FORWARD THIS TIME, I JUST KNOW IT
BEGINNING A NEW LIFE IN A NEW PLACE IS SOMETHING WE BOTH NEED
CAN'T YOU DO THAT HERE?

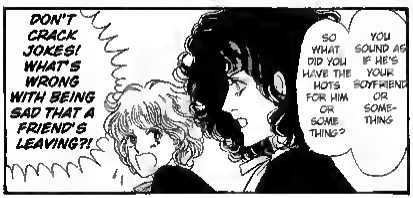
SO YOU'RE GOING TO START A NEW LIFE MAKE NEW FRIENDS
AND YOU'RE GOING TO FORGET US AND THE SCHOOL AND BECOME ENGLISH IS THAT HOW IT'S GOING TO BE?
SO YOU'RE GOING TO BE OFF MAKING NEW FRIENDS AND HAVING A BALL OF A TIME WHILE WE'RE GRIEVING?!
FRANCIS!
Fine then
I'm sorry
I'LL NEVER FORGET.
NO MATTER WHERE I GO, I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS PLACE, OR YOU
BECAUSE I AM FRENCH
BECAUSE THIS IS WHERE I WAS BORN.
NO MATTER WHAT PATH I GO DOWN IN LIFE I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT.
I KNOW THAT I SHOULD BE HAPPY FOR YOU.
BUT I

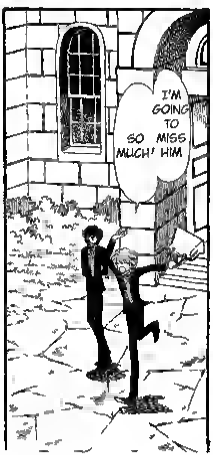
THE VAUGHN ROZE MY FATHER LOVED SO,
THE TEACHERS WHO TRULY CARE FOR THEIR STUDENTS
THE WONDERFUL FRIENDS I HAVE HERE
FELHAN, WHO WAS A GOOD RIVAL TO ME,
AND THE ANGEL WHO SAVED ME WHEN MY HEART WAS ON THE BRINK OF SPIRALLING INTO DARKNESS
AN ANGEL—
FOR YOUR SMILE YOUR WORDS AND YOUR KINDNESS
YOU PROBABLY DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH YOU BEING HERE SAVED ME
I HAVE TO THANK YOU FOR.
THERE ARE MANY THINGS
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE HERE, THAT I WAS ABLE TO CHANGE
WITH A SMILE YOU MELTED AWAY ONE BY ONE THE ICE THAT HAD BEEN CHISELLING AWAY AT MY HEART FOR SO LONG



THANK YOU

WHY DOES TIME HAVE TO CONTINUE ON, AND FRIENDS BE TORN APART?
I WONDER WHY IT IS ALWAYS THOSE LEFT BEHIND WHO GRIEVE THE MOST?
I THOUGHT THEN ABOUT HOW THESE MUST BE THE KIND OF EMOTIONS NATALIE FELT WHEN I LEFT FOR SCHOOL


DON'T CRACK JOKES! WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING SAD THAT A FRIEND'S LEAVING?!
SO WHAT DID YOU HAVE THE HOTS FOR HIM OR SOME-THING?
YOU SOUND AS IF HE'S YOUR BOYFRIEND OR SOME-THING


I'M GOING TO SO MISS HIM.

ARE YOU GOING TO LEAVE HERE TOO ONE DAY ?

WHAT?

I'LL TAKE THE BACCALAUREATE'S TEST, AND GO INTO THEIR FINE ARTS PROGRAM
ONE YEAR AHEAD OF YOU!
FRANCIS!
LET'S GO HOME MILL-FINE!
ARE YOU GOING HOME NOW?
I CAME HERE TO PICK UP MY BROTHER!
OH...
LOOKS AS IF FRANCIS WAS WHOM SHE WAS WAITING FOR!

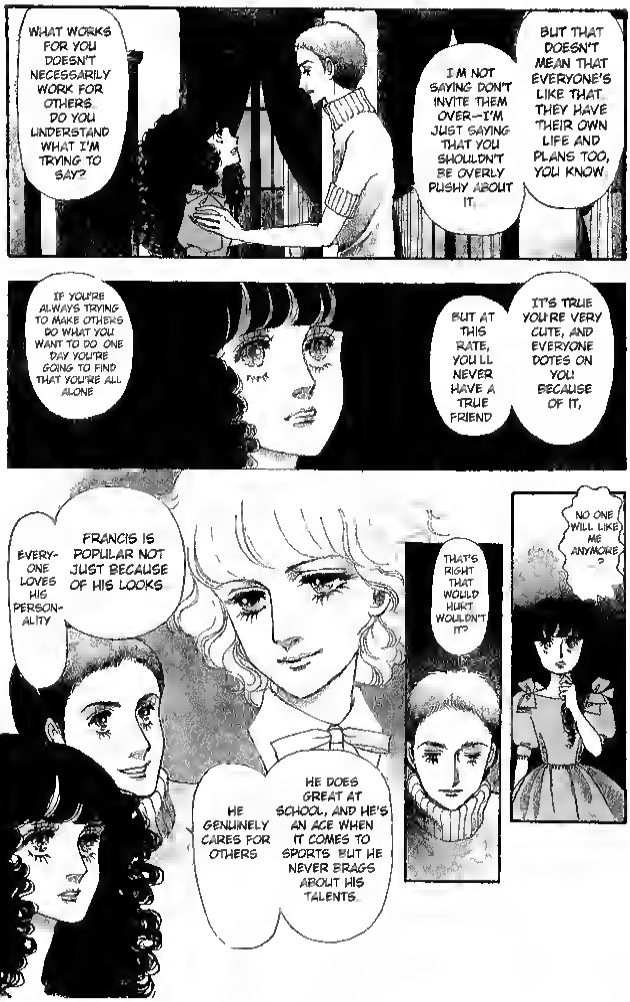
YOU MEAN, RIGHT NOW?
OF COURSE! IF WE WAIT TOO LONG IT'LL GO BAD!
YOU'LL COME, WON'T YOU?
I LEARNED TO BAKE PIE TODAY FROM MY MOM!
IT TURNED OUT WONDERFULLY, SO I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO HAVE SOME AT OUR PLACE!
REMEMBER HOW MY DADDY INVITED YOU TO OUR VACATION HOME AND YOU NEVER SHOWED UP? I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO IT TOO!
NO, YOU HAVE TO COME TODAY!
SORRY, BUT I HAVE SOMEWHERE I HAVE TO GO TO TODAY
COULD I TAKE A RAIN CHECK ON THAT?
THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE TO COME!
OR ELSE MY MOMMY WILL BE SO DISAPPOINTED!
B-But I already told my mommy that you were going to come...so she set everything up—
Well I'm throwing in the white towel then!
Oh, so she has eyes on Francis?
COME ON, LET'S GO
MILLFINE, DON'T BE SO PUSHY

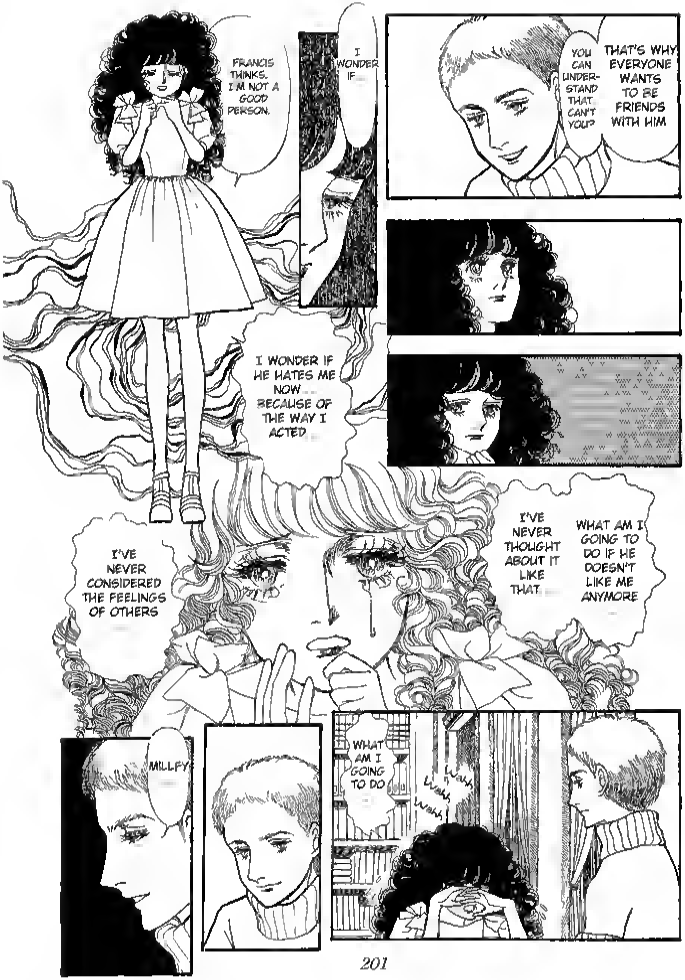
YOU SHOULD COME BACK AND TRY AGAIN WHEN YOU'VE DONE A BIT OF GROWING UP.
MADEMOISELLE, YOU SEEM TO THINK THAT THE WORLD REVOLVES AROUND YOU,
SORRY TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT THAT KIND OF THINKING COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG
YOU'LL COME, WON'T YOU?
IT REALLY IS DELICIOUS!
U...m ...
"RIGHT"?
W-WHO ARE YOU TO BE SO RUDE TO ME?! WHAT GAVE YOU THE RIGHT?!
FELHAM!
Blush
WELL THEN LET ME ASK YOU THIS WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO TROUBLE HIM LIKE THIS?

I'M SORRY, MILLFINE. I PROMISE I'LL VISIT NEXT TIME.
MILLFINE!
HE'S SUCH A MEANIE! I HATE HIM!
IT'S MY FIRST TIME EVER BEING SPOKEN TO LIKE THAT!
EVERYONE ALWAYS TREATS ME REALLY NICELY...
Sorry about that Felhan, Francis.
I'LL MAKE SURE TO SCOLD HER LATER, SO DON'T TAKE IT TO HEART, OKAY?
SHE GREW UP BEING SPOILED ROTTEN SO WHENEVER THINGS DON'T GO HER WAY, THIS IS THE RESULT

Shoujo Scans
Credits
Translator
Oceansportrait
Proofreader
Mars
Cleaner
Alicca
Typesetter
Alicca
QCer
Oceansportrait & Anya
Suna no Shiro
Chapter 13

HE WAS REALLY MEAN TO ME YOU KNOW!
WHY'D YOU APOLOGIZE TO THAT MEANIE, AND WHY DO I HAVE TO BE YELLED AT?!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME INVITING HIM FOR A CUP OF TEA?
Why, Evian ?!
YOU CAN'T EXPECT EVERYONE TO BE AT YOUR BECK AND CALL
WHAT HE SAID WAS QUITE RIGHT
PUTTING ASIDE FELHAN'S ACTIONS,
WHENEVER I INVITE THEM OVER, THEY'RE HAPPY TO COME.
B-BUT... EVERYONE LISTENS TO WHAT I SAY...
IS THAT HOW YOU THINK OF OTHERS?


WHAT WORKS FOR YOU DOESN'T NECESSARILY WORK FOR OTHERS. DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY?
I'M NOT SAYING DON'T INVITE THEM OVER—I'M JUST SAYING THAT YOU SHOULDN'T BE OVERLY PUSHY ABOUT IT.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT EVERYONE'S LIKE THAT. THEY HAVE THEIR OWN LIFE AND PLANS TOO, YOU KNOW.
IF YOU'RE ALWAYS TRYING TO MAKE OTHERS DO WHAT YOU WANT TO DO ONE DAY YOU'RE GOING TO FIND THAT YOU'RE ALL ALONE
BUT AT THIS RATE, YOU'LL NEVER HAVE A TRUE FRIEND
IT'S TRUE YOU'RE VERY CUTE, AND EVERYONE DOTES ON YOU BECAUSE OF IT.
NO ONE WILL LIKE ME ANYMORE ?
THAT'S RIGHT THAT WOULD HURT WOULDN'T IT?
EVERY-ONE LOVES HIS PERSON-ALITY
FRANCIS IS POPULAR NOT JUST BECAUSE OF HIS LOOKS
HE GENUINELY CARES FOR OTHERS
HE DOES GREAT AT SCHOOL, AND HE'S AN ACE WHEN IT COMES TO SPORTS BUT HE NEVER BRAGS ABOUT HIS TALENTS.


FRANCIS THINKS, I'M NOT A GOOD PERSON.
I WONDER IF...
YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THAT, CAN'T YOU?
THAT'S WHY EVERYONE WANTS TO BE FRIENDS WITH HIM
I WONDER IF HE HATES ME NOW... BECAUSE OF THE WAY I ACTED...
I'VE NEVER CONSIDERED THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS
I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT LIKE THAT...
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO IF HE DOESN'T LIKE ME ANYMORE...
MILLFY
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO
WAAH WAAH WAAH

IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU CAN MAKE THE EFFORT TO BE A GOOD GIRL FROM NOW ON.
AND IF YOU CAN BE ONE, I'M SURE YOU'LL BECOME A FINE LADY.
REALLY ?
OF COURSE, MILLFINE.
I-I WANT TO BECOME SOMEONE LIKE MS NATALIE!
SHE WAS SO WONDERFUL!
I CAN'T HELP BUT WISH TO BE SOMEONE LIKE HER!
OH!
THERE YOU ARE
WE RECEIVED A DELICIOUS CAKE AS A GIFT
WHY DON'T YOU BOTH COME DOWN AND HAVE SOME?

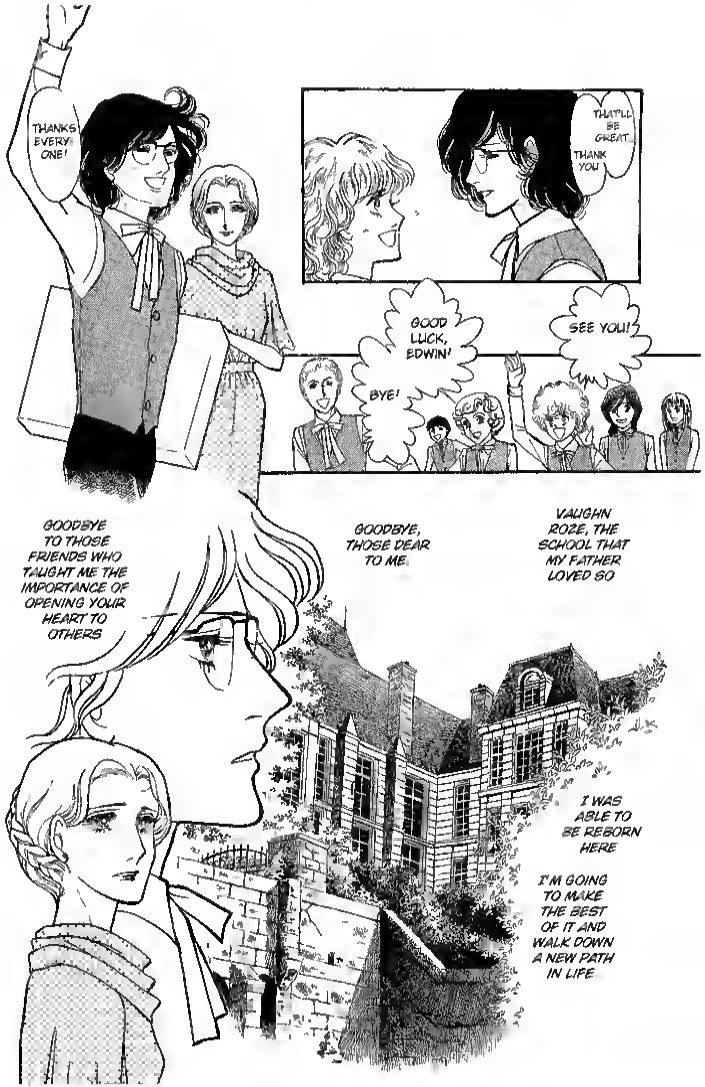
I LOVE CLOTHING WITH LACE AND BOWS,
OH, BUT I CAN'T HELP IT. IT'S NO FUN ORDERING FOR YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE A BOY!
BUT BOYS' CLOTHING HAVE NONE OF THAT!
Really ?!
I ORDERED A MATCHING PAIR OF DRESSES FOR YOU AND I!
IT'S PURE WHITE— I'M SURE YOU'LL LOOK JUST LIKE AN ANGEL!
OH NO I'D COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN!
MOTHER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SUMMER OUTFIT I ASKED YOU TO ORDER A WHILE BACK?
HUH, WELL, WHAT CAN YOU DO?
Oh, how about this! ♫
WHY DON'T YOU WEAR A LACE DRESS TOO?
OH GOD
Ishinjo
Scans

FOR ANYONE WHO WILL BE LEAVING THE COUNTRY FOR VACATION I ADVISE YOU TO KEEP IN MIND THAT YOU ARE STUDENTS OF VAUGHN ROZE AND YOU SHOULD ACT AS SUCH EVEN OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL GROUNDS
WELL I HOPE YOU HAVE A NICE SUMMER VACATION
AND I HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL BACK IN THE FALL
Yayyy!
SEE YOU IN THE FALL!
WELL, THAT'S IT FOR ME!
OH, I WISH I COULD GO TOO! THE ONLY PLACE I'M GOING IS TO THE SUMMER CAMP HELD BY THE CHURCH!
MY PARENTS SAID THAT THE ECONOMY'S A LOT CHEAPER THAN FRANCE!
MY WHOLE FAMILY'S HEADING TO SPAIN!
HEY HEY, WHERE YOU GOING THIS YEAR?!
I'M GOING TO VISIT MY AUNT IN GERMANY!

WE'RE ALL HEADING OFF TO MR LANBERRE'S PLACE!
FRANCIS WHERE YOU HEADED?
BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU SAID LAST YEAR!
I'M DEFINITELY GONNA FIND MYSELF A GIRLFRIEND THIS YEAR!
AND I HEARD IT'S RIGHT BY THE OCEAN TOO!
WOW, YOU'RE SO LUCKY HE LIVES IN A BIG MANSION, DOESN'T HE?
EDWIN!
EDWIN!!
I GUESS SHE'S HERE TO SETTLE EVERY-THING FOR THE MOVE
THAT WAS EDWIN'S MOM JUST NOW.
YEAH
I'M GONNA BE LONELY HERE WITH-OUT HIM.
IT'S A BUMMER HE WON'T BE HERE NEXT SEMES-TER THOUGH

HEY EVERYONE
ARE YOU LEAVING ALREADY? WHO'S GONNA KEEP US IN LINE ONCE YOU'RE GONE?
YEAH IT SUCKS THAT YOU'RE LEAVING! WE'RE GONNA MISS YOU AN AWFUL LOT!
PROMISE YOU WON'T FORGET US?
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT OVER THERE THEN JUST COME RIGHT BACK!
HEY DON'T BE LIKE THAT!
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!
YOU'RE GONNA DO GREAT IN ENGLAND, I JUST KNOW IT!
THIS IS A FAREWELL GIFT FROM US WE WRACKED OUR BRAINS TRYING TO COME UP WITH WHAT WE COULD GIVE YOU!
OPEN IT LATER WHEN YOU HAVE A CHANCE OKAY?
MY IDEA WAS TO GIVE YOU A BOOK!
YEAH, BUT THAT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANY FUN!
THANK YOU I'LL TREASURE IT ALWAYS

YOU GUYS STILL HAVE TO PACK YOUR THINGS RIGHT?
SO I WON'T HOLD YOU UP ANY LONGER. THANKS FOR COMING
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, EDWIN!
THIS IS HIS LAST CHANCE TO SEE HIM SO WHY ISN'T HE HERE?
I HAVEN'T SEEN FELIAN SINCE THIS MORNING. I WONDER WHERE HE COULD BE?
GOOD LUCK!
I-I CAN HOLD YOUR BAGS FOR YOU TO THE STATION!
HE COULDN'T FORGIVE HIM AFTERALL
I GUESS
WAY TOO MUCH!
IT'S FINE, EDWIN HAS SO MUCH LUGGAGE ANYWAYS!
WELL FRANCIS IDOLIZED THE DORM MANAGER MORE THAN ANY OF US AFTER ALL
AHH, NO FAIR!


THANKS EVERY ONE!
THAT'LL BE GREAT. THANK YOU
GOOD LUCK, EDWIN!
BYE!
SEE YOU!
GOODBYE TO THOSE FRIENDS WHO TAUGHT ME THE IMPORTANCE OF OPENING YOUR HEART TO OTHERS
GOODBYE, THOSE DEAR TO ME.
VAUGHN ROZE, THE SCHOOL THAT MY FATHER LOVED SO
I WAS ABLE TO BE REBORN HERE
I'M GOING TO MAKE THE BEST OF IT AND WALK DOWN A NEW PATH IN LIFE

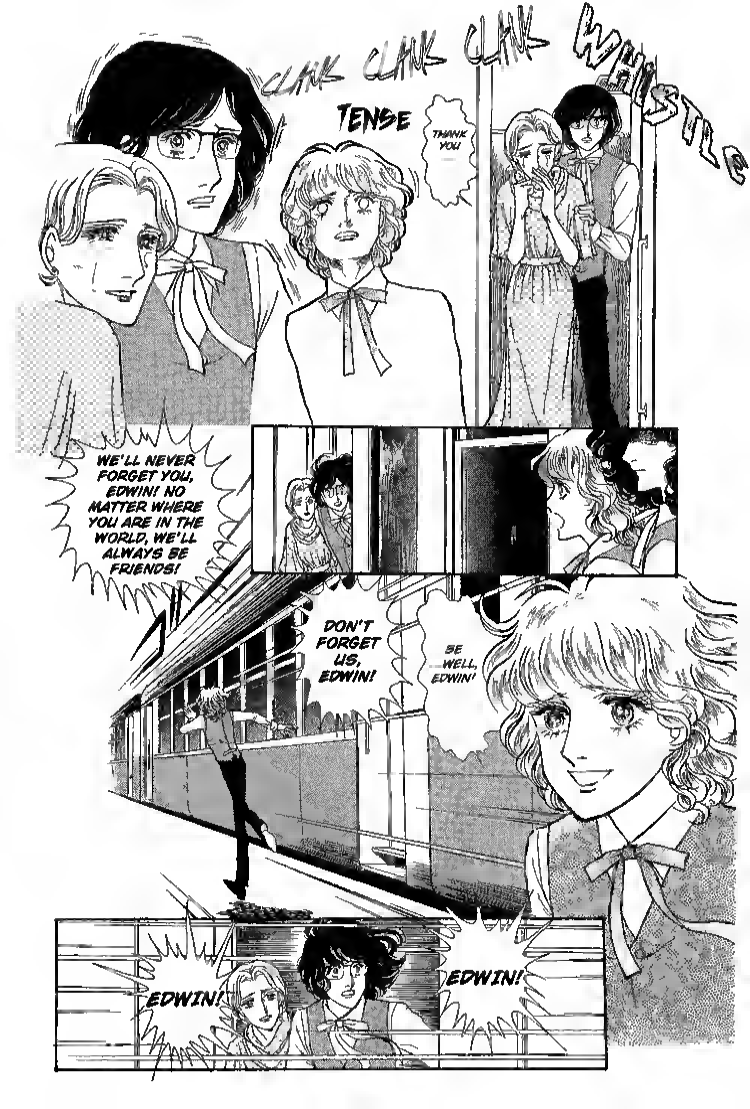
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS EDWIN?
BE HONEST WITH ME--YOU WANT TO STAY IN FRANCE, DON'T YOU?
DON'T BE SILLY MOTHER. THIS WAS A DECISION WE MADE TOGETHER.
WE DECIDED THAT THIS WOULD BE THE BEST THING TO DO FOR BOTH OF US. DIDN'T WE?
IN A NEW LAND, WE'RE GOING TO START OVER
WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO CALL OUR OWN RIGHT NOW,
BUT EVEN THEN WE DECIDED WE WILL CARVE A NEW PATH FOR OURSELVES. DIDN'T WE?
LET'S GO, SHALL WE?
YES

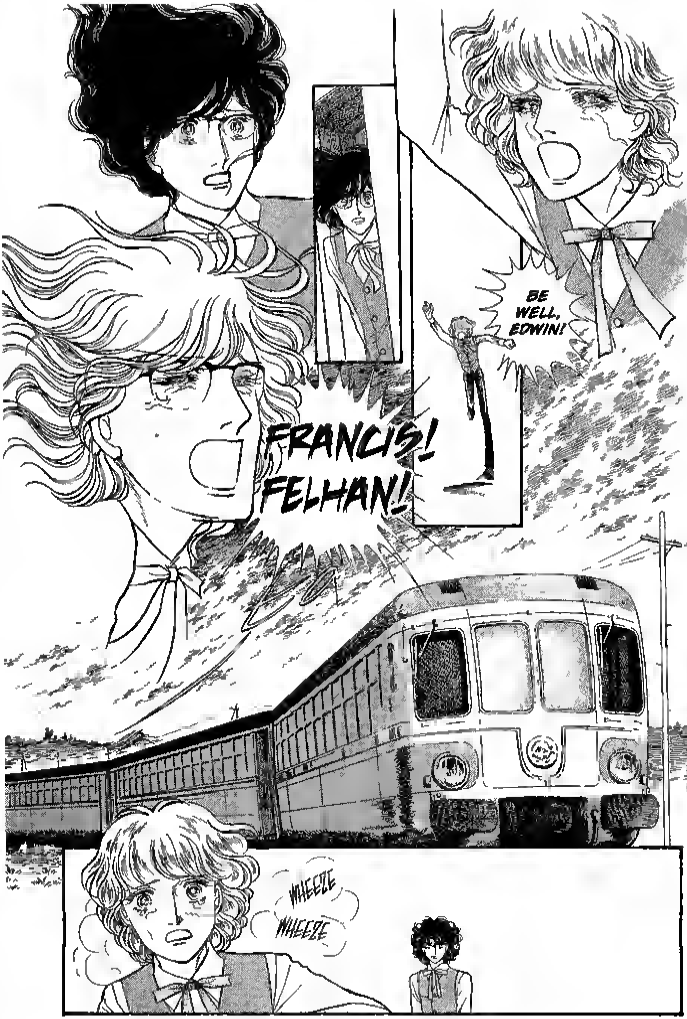
THANK YOU FOR BEING SUCH A NICE FRIEND TO HIM
I'VE HEARD MANY GOOD THINGS ABOUT YOU FROM MY SON,
WELL IT'S ABOUT TIME
YES ...
THANK YOU, FRANCIS
BE WELL
WHAT
FELHAN
THEN THIS CHILD ...
"FELHAN"
THEN THIS CHILD WAS HER...

CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
IT WAS BECAUSE OF ME THAT HIS MOTHER
I CAUSED THE UNHAPPINESS IN HIS LIFE!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY TO HIM?!
I CAN'T FACE HIM, EDWIN
AH
HE WOULDN'T ALLOW IT SO
THERE'S NO WAY THAT GOD WOULD ALLOW US TO BE HAPPY
EDWIN
LET'S JUST FORGET ABOUT THIS IDEA.
FELHAN, DON'T BLAME MY MOTHER— BLAME ME!

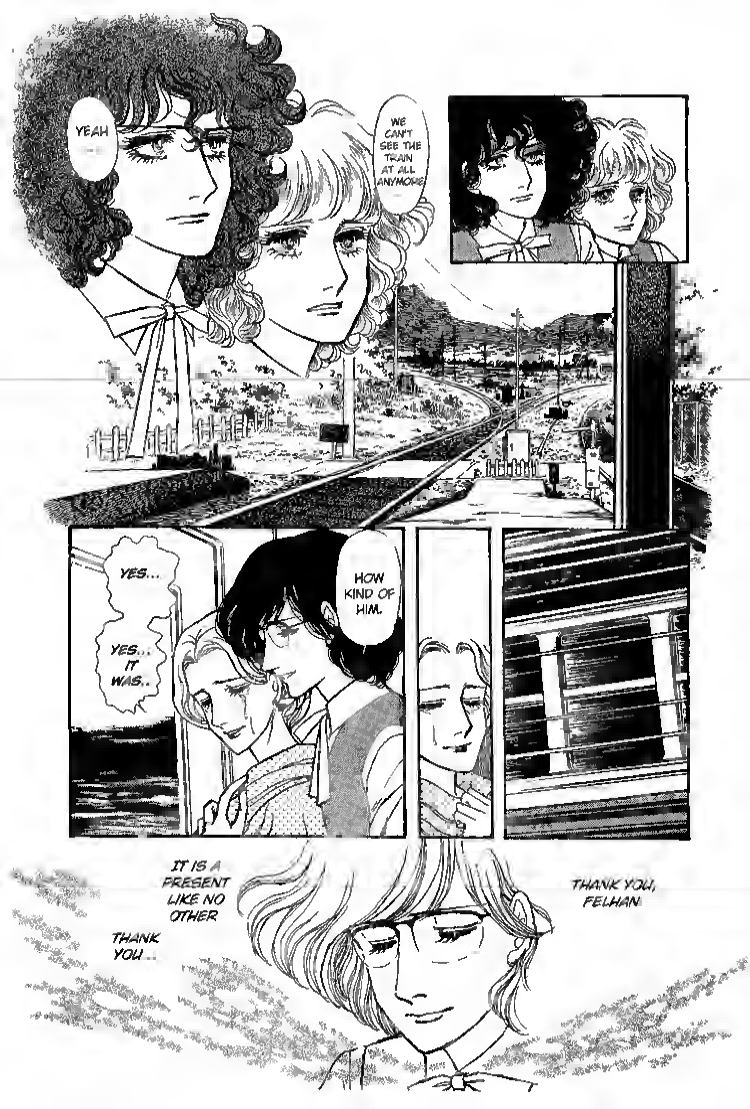
PLEASE, JUST FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO FORGIVE THEM. I BEG OF YOU, FELHAN!
FELHAN, YOU CAN'T THEY'RE TRYING TO START OVER —
YOU CAN'T, FELHAN! YOU JUST CAN'T!
THAT'S...
THIS WAS SOMETHING THAT I HAD WITH ME FROM BACK IN MY ORPHANAGE DAYS. IT'S THE ONLY THING LEFT OF MY PARENTS.
THE ONLY THING THAT I COULD REALLY CALL MINE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING WOULD PROBABLY BE THIS

ARE YOU SURE...?
FOR ME TO HAVE THIS?
IS IT... REALLY ALL RIGHT
THANK YOU
THANK YOU SO MUCH
THANK YOU
MY MOTHER WILL GET BETTER.
AH


CLANK CLANK CLANK
WHISTLE
TENSE
THANK YOU!
WE'LL NEVER FORGET YOU, EDWIN! NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE IN THE WORLD, WE'LL ALWAYS BE FRIENDS!
DON'T FORGET US, EDWIN!
BE WELL, EDWIN!
EDWIN!
EDWIN!

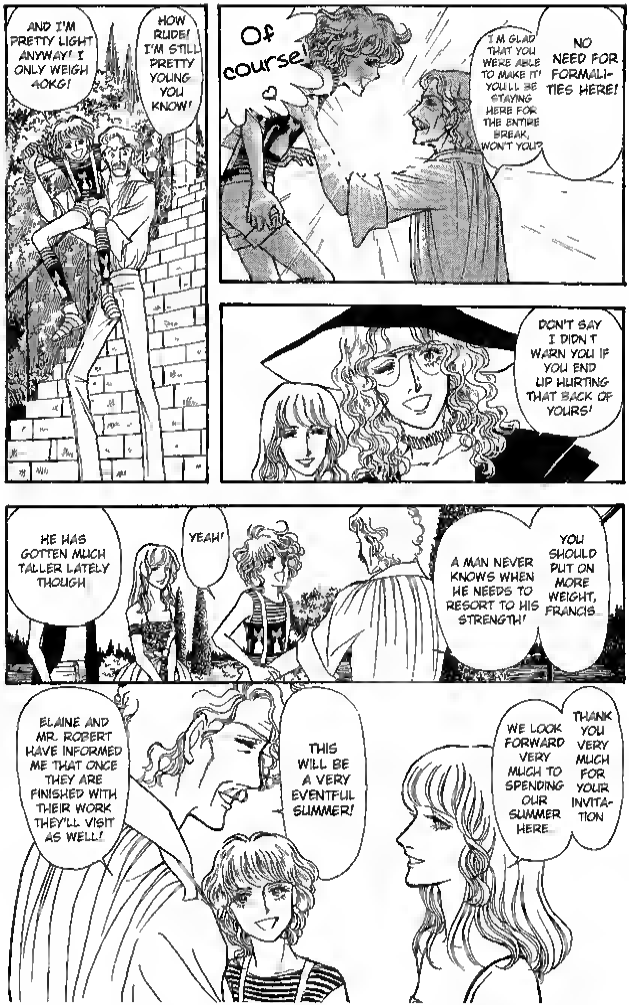

BE WELL, EDWIN!
FRANCIS! FELHAN!
WHEEZE
WHEEZE

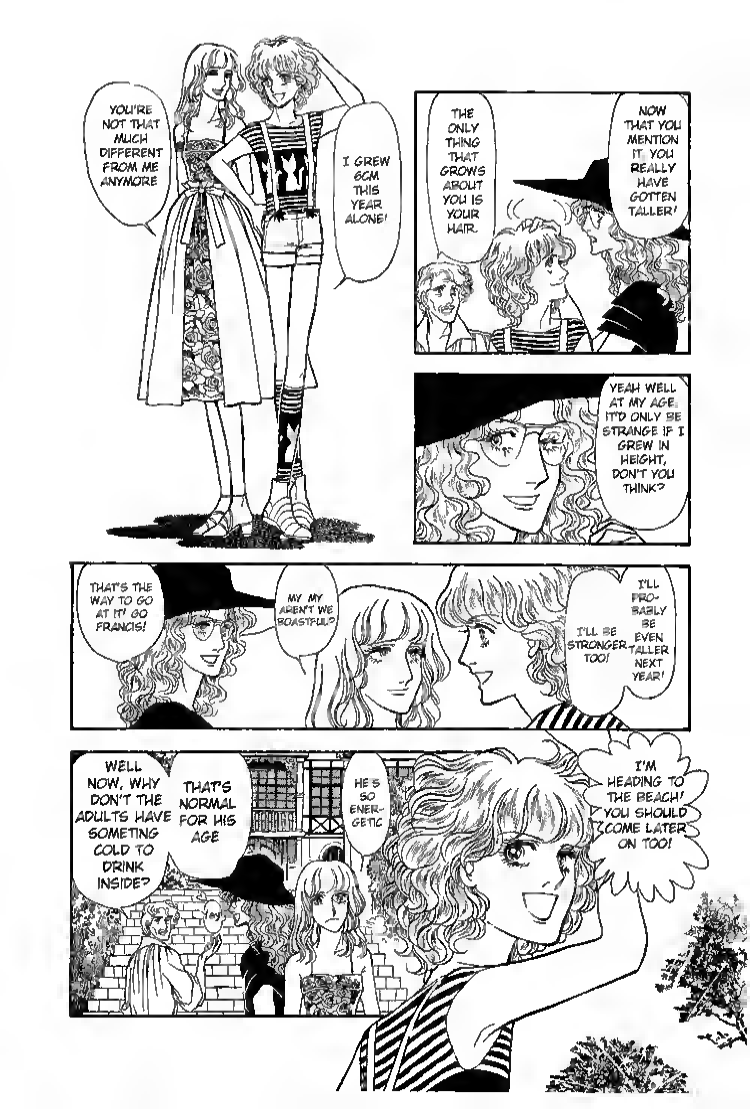
EDWIN'S MOTHER SEEMED SO HAPPY!
I'M SO GLAD
THE TRAIN'S GONE
CLANK
CLANK
I'M SORRY
I THOUGHT YOU HAD BAD INTENTIONS TO BE HONEST!
WHAT ?
I THOUGHT I SAW YOU FOR SURE YOU WERE GOING TO
WHEN
STOP IT!
I'M SERIOUS! YOU WERE AWESOME FELIAN! JUST AWESOME!
JUST DROP IT ALREADY
BUT THIS MADE ME SEE YOU IN A NEW LIGHT!

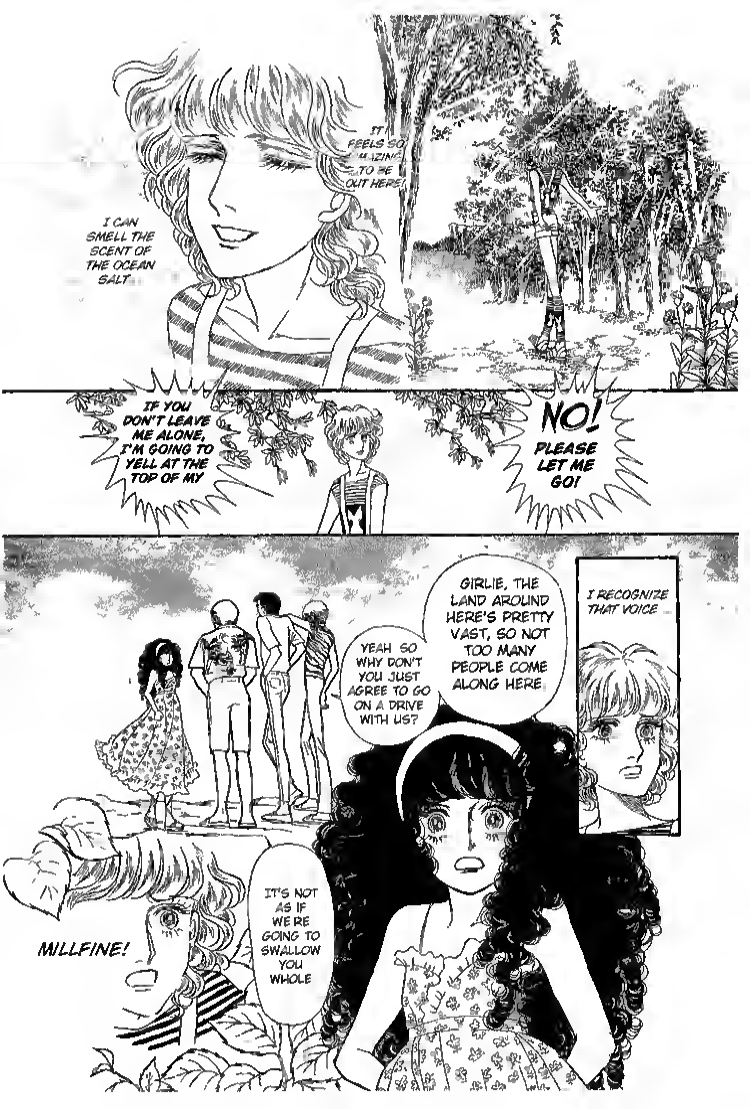

YEAH...
WE CAN'T SEE THE TRAIN AT ALL ANYMORE
HOW KIND OF HIM.
YES...
YES... IT WAS..
IT IS A PRESENT LIKE NO OTHER
THANK YOU...
THANK YOU, FELHAN.

OH MY!
HEY, THESE ARE THE SCHOOL'S BED SHEETS!
EVIAN! I CAN'T BELIEVE HE DID THIS!
ARE YOU SURE WE SHOULDN'T RETURN THESE?
THERE'S EVEN A PILLOW CASE HERE
CHUCKLES
Curl up in this and dream on the school why don't you? PS Let's keep this a secret from the school and remember! Now that you have it you're just as guilty of the crime!
I'M SURE— IT'S ALL RIGHT
WHISTLE—

WAIT, FRANCIS! I CAN'T RUN THAT FAST!
HURRY, NATALIE!
MR. LAN-BERRE!
SO YOU'VE FINALLY ARRIVED! WELCOME!


AND I'M PRETTY LIGHT ANYWAY! I ONLY WEIGH 40KG!
HOW RUDE! I'M STILL PRETTY YOUNG YOU KNOW!
Of course!
I'M GLAD THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO MAKE IT! YOU'LL BE STAYING HERE FOR THE ENTIRE BREAK, WON'T YOU?
NO NEED FOR FORMALITIES HERE!
DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU IF YOU END UP HURTING THAT BACK OF YOURS!
HE HAS GOTTEN MUCH TALLER LATELY THOUGH
YEAH!
A MAN NEVER KNOWS WHEN HE NEEDS TO RESORT TO HIS STRENGTH!
YOU SHOULD PUT ON MORE WEIGHT, FRANCIS
ELAINE AND MR. ROBERT HAVE INFORMED ME THAT ONCE THEY ARE FINISHED WITH THEIR WORK THEY'LL VISIT AS WELL!
THIS WILL BE A VERY EVENTFUL SUMMER!
WE LOOK FORWARD VERY MUCH TO SPENDING OUR SUMMER HERE
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR INVITATION


YOU'RE NOT THAT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM ME ANYMORE
I GREW 6CM THIS YEAR ALONE!
THE ONLY THING THAT GROWS ABOUT YOU IS YOUR HAIR.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YOU REALLY HAVE GOTTEN TALLER!
YEAH WELL AT MY AGE, IT'D ONLY BE STRANGE IF I GREW IN HEIGHT, DON'T YOU THINK?
THAT'S THE WAY TO GO AT IT, GO FRANCIS!
MY MY AREN'T WE BOASTFUL?
I'LL BE STRONGER TOO!
I'LL PROBABLY BE EVEN TALLER NEXT YEAR!
WELL NOW, WHY DON'T THE ADULTS HAVE SOMETING COLD TO DRINK INSIDE?
THAT'S NORMAL FOR HIS AGE
HE'S SO ENERGETIC
I'M HEADING TO THE BEACH! YOU SHOULD COME LATER ON TOO!

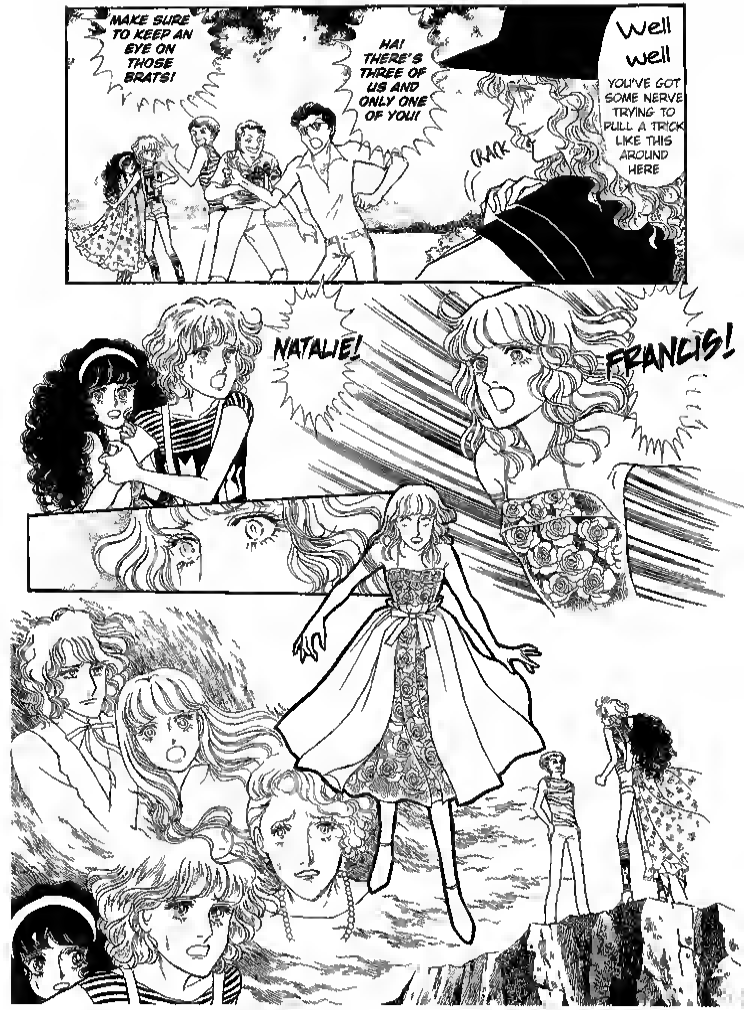

I CAN SMELL THE SCENT OF THE OCEAN SALT
IT FEELS SO AMAZING TO BE OUT HERE!
IF YOU DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE, I'M GOING TO YELL AT THE TOP OF MY
NO! PLEASE LET ME GO!
I RECOGNIZE THAT VOICE
GIRLIE, THE LAND AROUND HERE'S PRETTY VAST, SO NOT TOO MANY PEOPLE COME ALONG HERE
YEAH SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST AGREE TO GO ON A DRIVE WITH US?
MILLFINE!
IT'S NOT AS IF WE'RE GOING TO SWALLOW YOU WHOLE

SOMEBODY PLEASE HELP ME
KYAA!!
STOP IT!
YOU'RE PRETTY CUTE YOU KNOW THAT?
I'M SURE YOU'RE GONNA BE ONE HELLUVA KNOCK-OUT WHEN YOU GROW UP
FRANCIS!
OH, SHIT.
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. IT'S JUST A BRAT
TCH!
WILLFI-
U-HHHHH!
FRANCIS! FRANCIS!

hiccup
hiccup
THAT'S WHY I CONVINCED DADDY TO RENT A SUMMER HOME NEAR HERE...
E-EVIAN TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE COMING HERE...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I THOUGHT IF I CAME HERE I'D BE ABLE TO SEE YOU...
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE, YOU KNOW THAT, YOU LITTLE BRAT?
YEAH! WE WERE HERE FIRST
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO CUT IN
YEAH AFTER WE'RE DONE WITH HER, WE'LL MAKE SURE TO GIVE HER BACK TO YOU
BUT DON'T WORRY, WE'LL RETURN HER TO YOU AFTER WE GET FIRST DIBS
GET BEHIND ME

SWISH
HEY NOW, DON'T BE SO UNREASONABLE
WE'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO HER,
SO IT'S GONNA BE A PROBLEM IF YOU TRY TO TAKE HER AWAY FROM RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES
JUST CUT IT OUT ALREADY! OR WHATT! ARE YOU NOT REAL MEN?!
AREN'T YOU ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES FOR TRYING TO PULL A TRICK LIKE THIS?!
DON'T!
IF YOU DO WE PROMISE NOT TO DO ANYTHING TO THIS BOY
NOW BE A GOOD GIRL AND COME WITH US
I'M SURE WE CAN CHANGE HIS MIND SOON ENOUGH
"WHISTLES" HE'S GOT SOME GUTS TO HIM
F-FRANCIS

NOOOO!
WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE ?
IT'S STRANGE I CHECKED THE REACH BUT HE WASN'T THERE
FRAN-CIS
FRAN-CIS
W-WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING ON ?
THIS WAY!
MR. MICHELE!
WHAT ARE YOU THREE DOING TO THEM?!


MAKE SURE TO KEEP AN EYE ON THOSE BRATS!
HA! THERE'S THREE OF US AND ONLY ONE OF YOU!
CHAK
Well well
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE TRYING TO PULL A TRICK LIKE THIS AROUND HERE
NATALIE!
FRANCIS!

TAKE THAT!
WHOA!
NOOO!
NO!
GIVE HER OVER TO US AL-READY!
AH...
WOBBLE

AHHH ....
AH... AH.
SPLASH!
Nooooo!
DON'T MAKE ME REMEMBER!

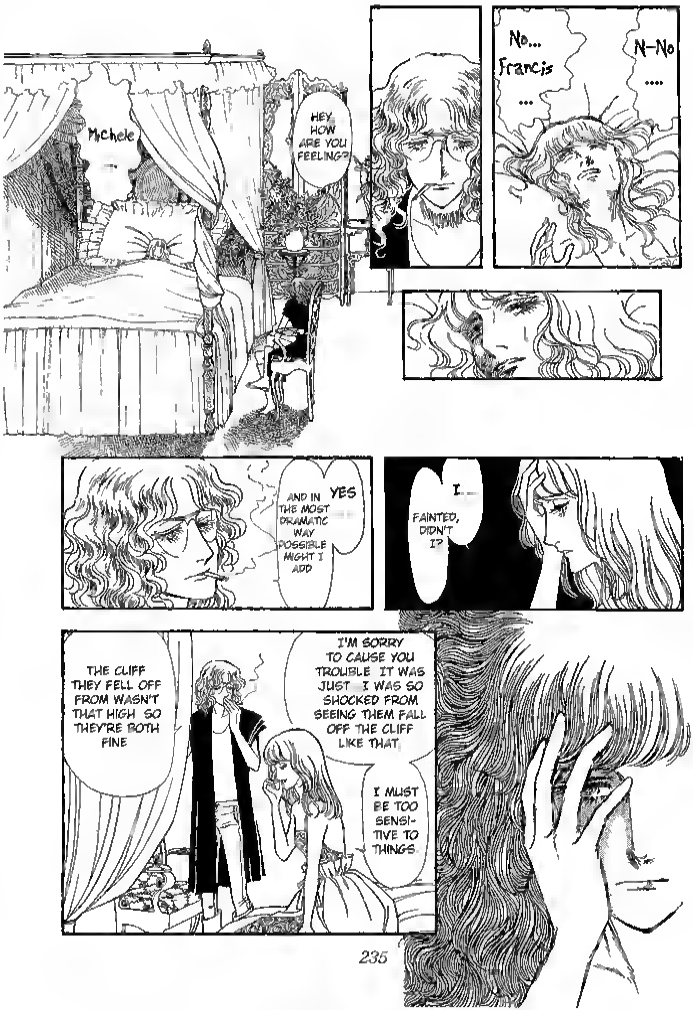
Shoujo Scans
Credits
Translator
Oceansportrait
Proofreader
Mars
Cleaner
Alicca
Typesetter
Alicca
QCer
Oceansportrait & Anya
Suna no Shiro
Chapter 14

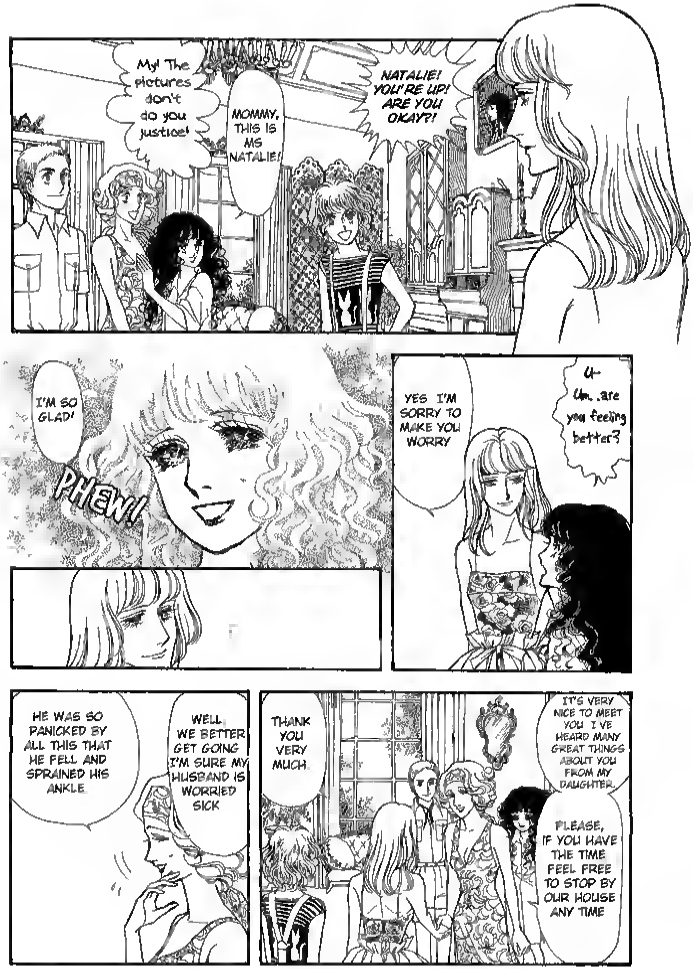
NATALIE!
FUCK THIS, LET'S GO.
H-Hey... This doesn't look good...

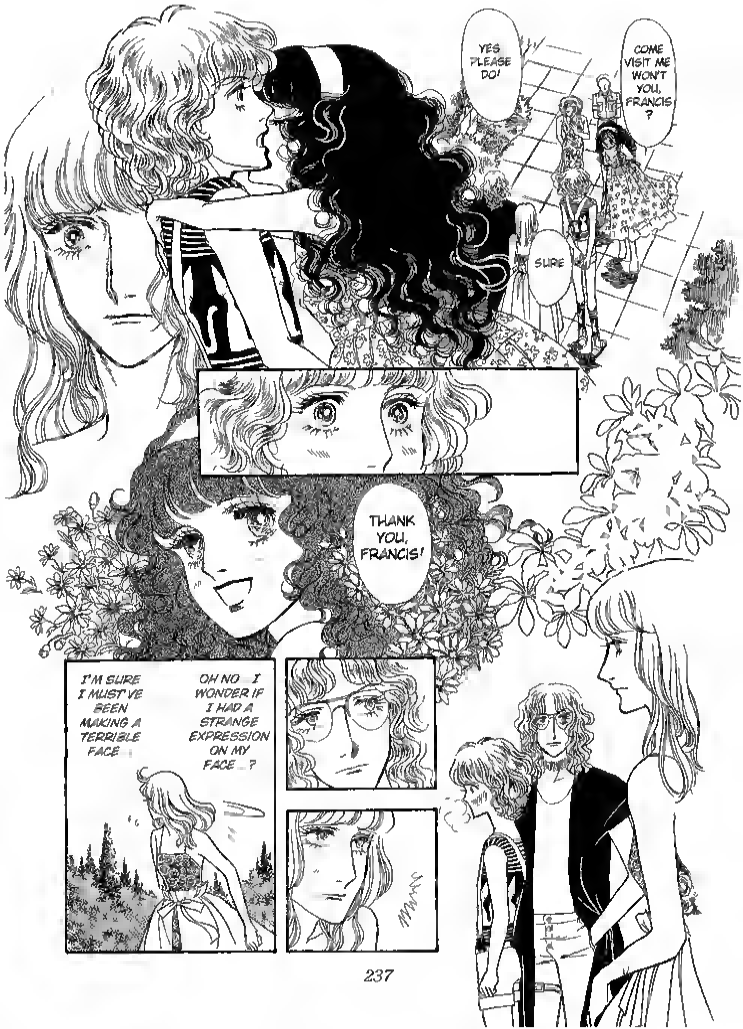
SPLASH
A-A BIT
CAN YOU SWIM, MILLFINE?
NATALIE!! WHAT HAPPENED?!

MOMMY!
MILLFY!
SCREECH
I couldn't stand it if something like this were to ever happen again!
I'M SORRY TO MAKE YOU WORRY
SOB
Ah...
I was so worried!
Are you all right?! Oh, you must've been so frightened!
MOMMY!
MOMMY, HE WAS SO BRAVE!
EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE THREE SCARY GUYS, HE STILL PROTECTED ME FROM THEM!
FRANCIS CAME AND SAVED ME THOUGH

Oh my, how dangerous!
I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT YOU'RE BOTH SAFE THOUGH
DURING THE SUMMER, WE DO TEND TO GET TROUBLE -MAKERS LIKE THAT AROUND HERE
Would you accept our invitation to dinner tonight?
NOT TONIGHT
I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ALONE
IT WAS MR MICHELE WHO CAME AND SAVED THE DAY
THANK YOU SO MUCH FRANCIS, FOR SAVING HER
THANK YOU STILL FRANCIS
I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT BUT YOUR CLOTHES HAVE DRIED
HE'S A DOCTOR
MR MICHELE'S SEEING TO HER
Oh my . . is she all right?
MS NATALIE COLLAPSED!

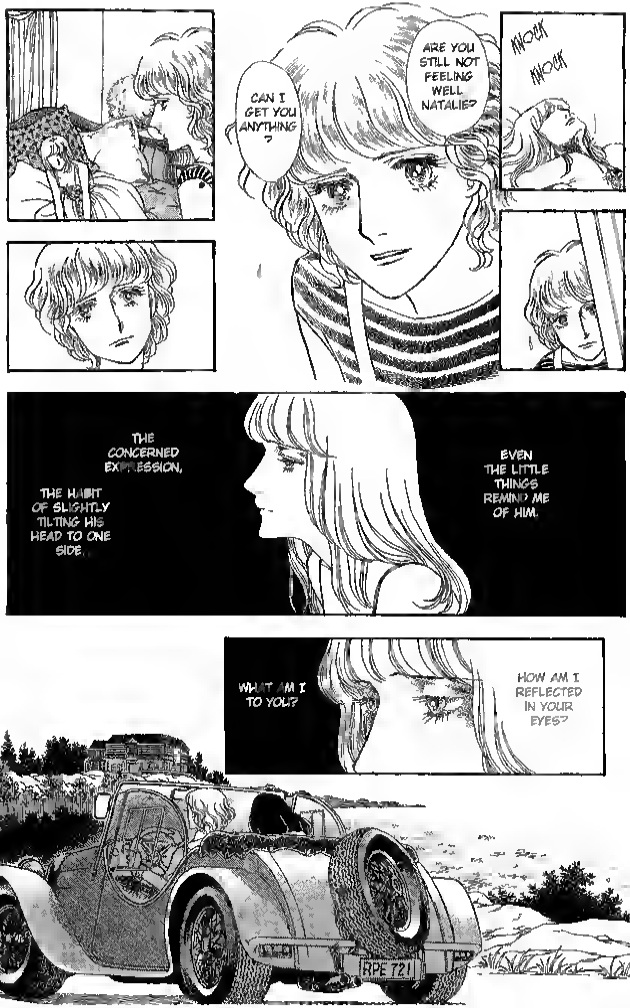

Michele
HEY, HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
No... Francis ...
N-No ....
AND IN THE MOST DRAMATIC WAY POSSIBLE MIGHT I ADD
YES
I... FAINTED, DIDN'T I?
THE CLIFF THEY FELL OFF FROM WASN'T THAT HIGH SO THEY'RE BOTH FINE
I'M SORRY TO CAUSE YOU TROUBLE IT WAS JUST I WAS SO SHOCKED FROM SEEING THEM FALL OFF THE CLIFF LIKE THAT
I MUST BE TOO SENSITIVE TO THINGS


My! The pictures don't do you justice!
MOMMY, THIS IS MS NATALIE!
NATALIE! YOU'RE UP! ARE YOU OKAY?!
I'M SO GLAD!
PHEW!
YES I'M SORRY TO MAKE YOU WORRY
U- Um..are you feeling better?
HE WAS SO PANICKED BY ALL THIS THAT HE FELL AND SPRAINED HIS ANKLE.
WELL, WE BETTER GET GOING I'M SURE MY HUSBAND IS WORRIED SICK
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
IT'S VERY NICE TO MEET YOU. I'VE HEARD MANY GREAT THINGS ABOUT YOU FROM MY DAUGHTER.
PLEASE, IF YOU HAVE THE TIME FEEL FREE TO STOP BY OUR HOUSE ANY TIME

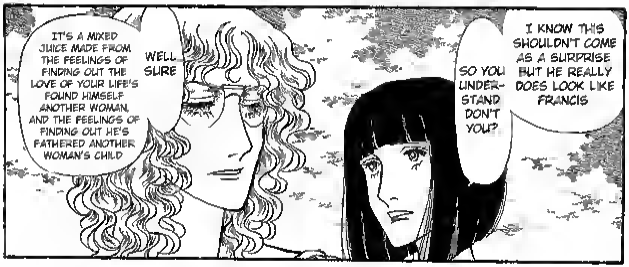

YES PLEASE DO!
COME VISIT ME WON'T YOU, FRANCIS?
SURE
THANK YOU, FRANCIS!
I'M SURE I MUST'VE BEEN MAKING A TERRIBLE FACE
OH NO I WONDER IF I HAD A STRANGE EXPRESSION ON MY FACE...?

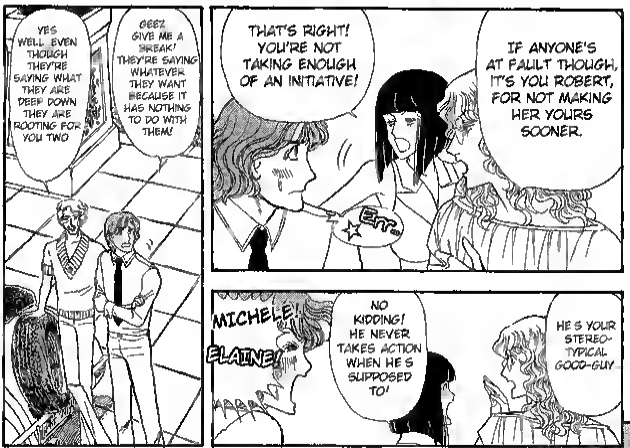
I KNOW I HAVE NO RIGHT TO TIE HIM DOWN
I ALSO KNOW THAT I CAN'T EXPECT HIM TO REMAIN MY FRANCIS FOREVER
IT'S NOT AS IF I'M HIS LOVER OR ANYTHING NEAR IT
WHY DO I FEEL THIS WAY?
FRANCIS' CHILD
FRANCIS CHILD WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE FRANCIS
IT'S BECAUSE IT'S ALMOST AS IF FRANCIS IS STILL ALIVE
THEY LOOK TOO MUCH ALIKE
THAT'S WHY MY FEELINGS ARE IN SUCH A MESS

MY FRANCIS WITH SOMEONE ELSE
MY FRANCIS REACHES OUT AND HOLDS SOMEONE ELSE'S HAND
MY FRANCIS GAZES AT SOMEONE ELSE WITH PASSION
MY FRANCIS NO LONGER EXISTS IN THIS WORLD
WHAT A FOOL I AM —
HE'S NOT FRANCIS
NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY LOOK ALIKE HE'S NOT FRANCIS


CAN I GET YOU ANYTHING ?
ARE YOU STILL NOT FEELING WELL, NATALIE?
KNOCK KNOCK
THE CONCERNED EXPRESSION,
THE HABIT OF SLIGHTLY TILTING HIS HEAD TO ONE SIDE,
EVEN THE LITTLE THINGS REMIND ME OF HIM.
WHAT AM I TO YOU?
HOW AM I REFLECTED IN YOUR EYES?
RPE 721

Mr. Lanberre!
THANKS FOR INVITING US!
THAT TOOK YOU QUITE A WHILE!
You two are a hotel!
IT'S SO NICE AND COOL HERE!
THE THING YOU WARNED ME ABOUT MIGHT'VE OCCURRED IT SHOCKED ME A BIT.
YES, SHE DID
I HEARD NATALIE FAINTED?
I'M SOAKED THROUGH WITH SWEAT DO YOU MIND IF I BORROW A SHOWER ?
HER SHOCK MUST'VE COME FROM HAVING HER OVERLAPPING HER IMAGE ONTO MILLFINE
THE TIME WHEN SHE AND FRANCIS JUMPED OFF THE CLIFF
SHE MUST'VE REMEMBERED


I KNOW THIS SHOULDN'T COME AS A SURPRISE BUT HE REALLY DOES LOOK LIKE FRANCIS
SO YOU UNDERSTAND DON'T YOU?
WELL SURE
IT'S A MIXED JUICE MADE FROM THE FEELINGS OF FINDING OUT THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE'S FOUND HIMSELF ANOTHER WOMAN, AND THE FEELINGS OF FINDING OUT HE'S FATHERED ANOTHER WOMAN'S CHILD


IF ANYONE'S AT FAULT THOUGH, IT'S YOU ROBERT, FOR NOT MAKING HER YOURS SOONER.
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'RE NOT TAKING ENOUGH OF AN INITIATIVE!
Err
GEEZ, GIVE ME A BREAK! THEY'RE SAYING WHATEVER THEY WANT BECAUSE IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM!
WELL, EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE SAYING WHAT THEY ARE DEEP DOWN THEY ARE ROOTING FOR YOU TWO
HE'S YOUR STEREO-TYPICAL GOOD-GUY
NO KIDDING! HE NEVER TAKES ACTION WHEN HE'S SUPPOSED TO!
MICHELE!
ELAINE!

Robert, it's not as if they were really placing the blame on you..
HUH? OH NO
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT THEY'RE RIGHT

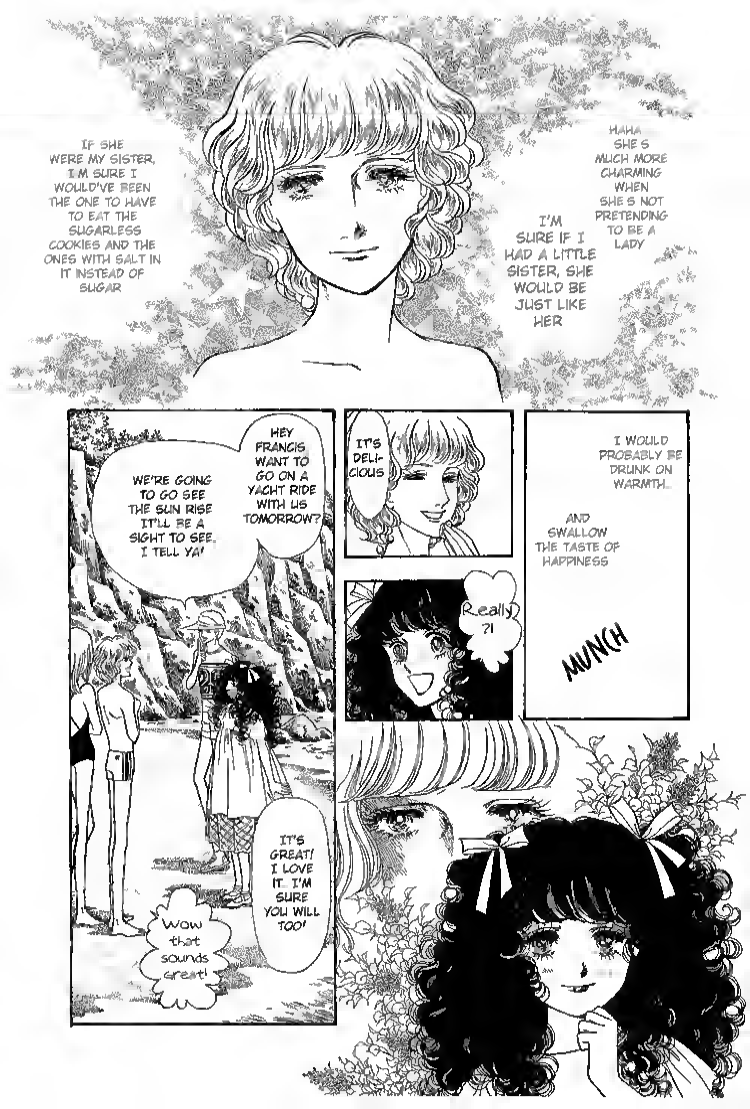
I JUST FEEL THAT IF I WERE TO MAKE ANY RASH MOVEMENTS, WHAT WE HAVE NOW WOULD BE RUINED
I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THEM LABELLING ME AS THE "GOOD GUY." BUT IT IS TRUE THAT I'VE BEEN AFRAID TO ACT DUE TO MY LACK OF COURAGE
"LIVING OFF MEMORIES ALONE..."
VAUGHE
THE ONLY THING I FEEL LIKE I CAN DO IS WAIT
I'M JUST WAITING FOR THE DAY TO COME WHEN HE BECOMES A FOND MEMORY OF THE PAST TO HER.
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN WIN AGAINST FRANCIS' GHOST
YES ...?
ARE PEOPLE CAPABLE OF LIVING OFF MEMORIES ALONE ...?

Splash
KYA!
WELL I'VE NEVER BEEN AN EXPERT AT LOVE
Hey why aren't you swimming? We came here to swim, didn't we?
Haha-haha!
FRANCIS!
Hey, let's have a race!
WELL THEN, WHAT'S THE POINT OF THEM HAVING COME HERE?
LOOKS LIKE THEY DON'T WANT TO GET TANNED
TO HAVE THIS PLACE TO OURSELVES. IT'S LIKE A DREAM!
IT FEELS SO NICE THOUGH
HE MUST HAVE LOTS OF ENERGY LEFT OVER
HE'S A BALL OF ENDLESS ENERGY

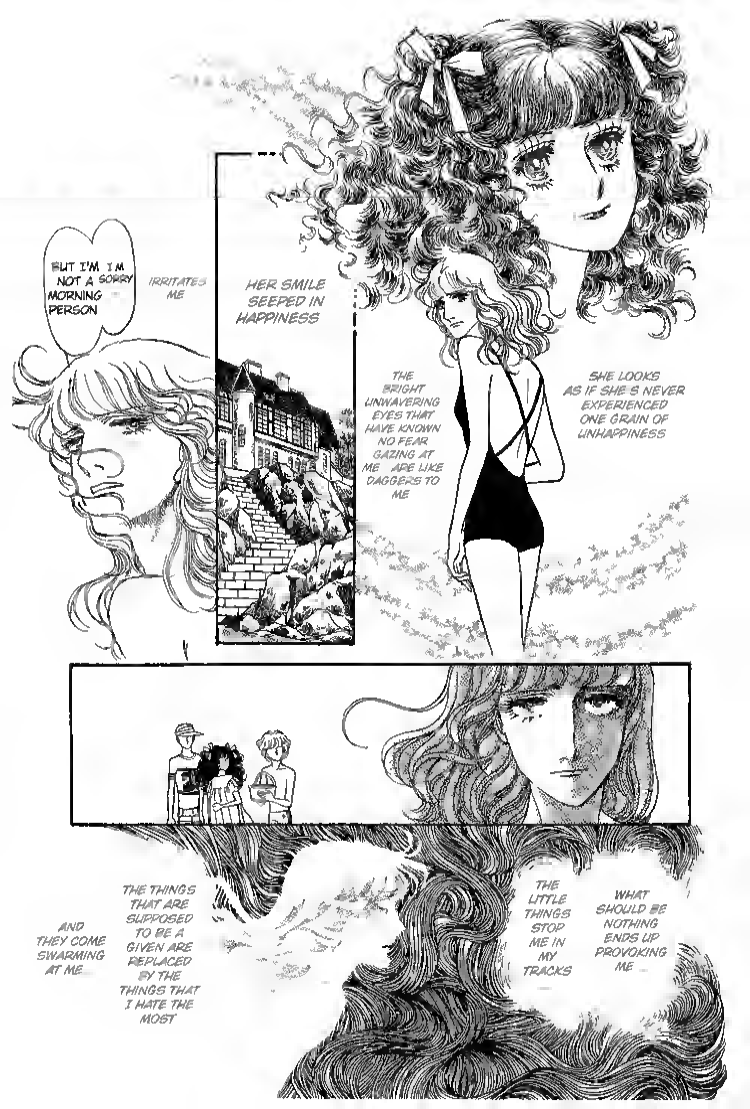
FRANCIS!
HELLO, MS NATALIE
WHY HELLO THERE MILLFINE EVIAN
LIM, THIS IS A THANK YOU GIFT THAT MY MOTHER BAKED
PLEASE ACCEPT THIS!
HIS GIRL-FRIEND?
YEP
THANK YOU, HOW CUTE!
YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THEM THIS MORNING!
I MADE THE ONES THAT ARE SHAPED LIKE A STAR!
YEAH!

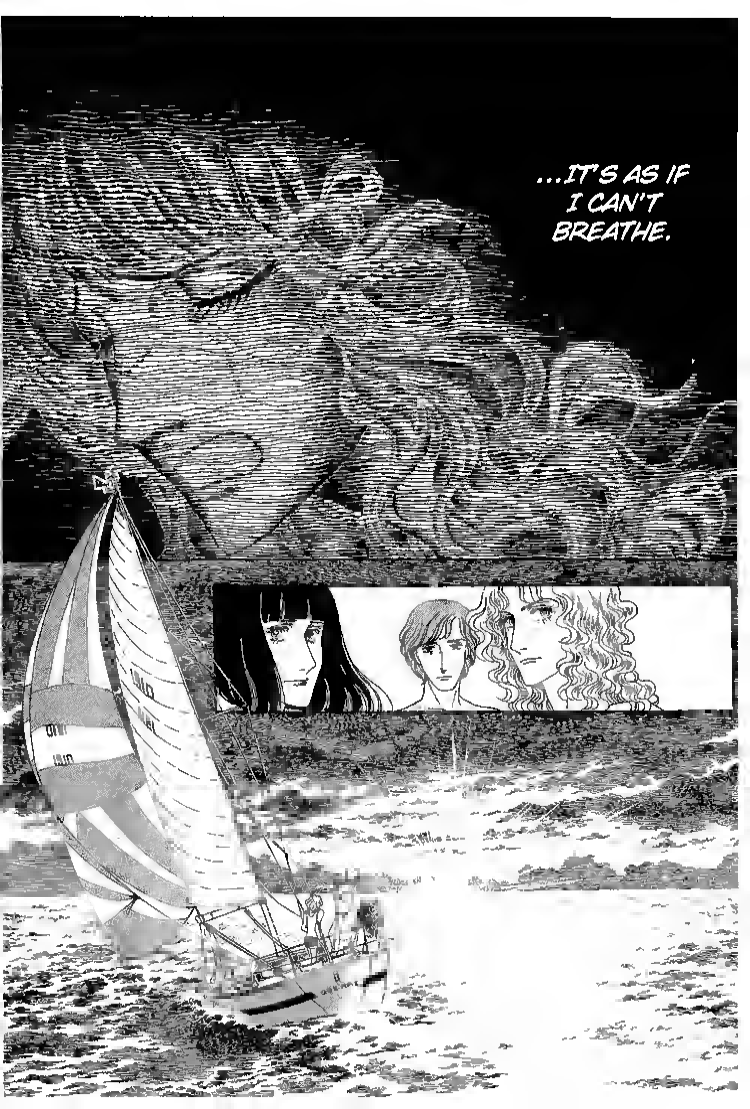
Ishouju Scans

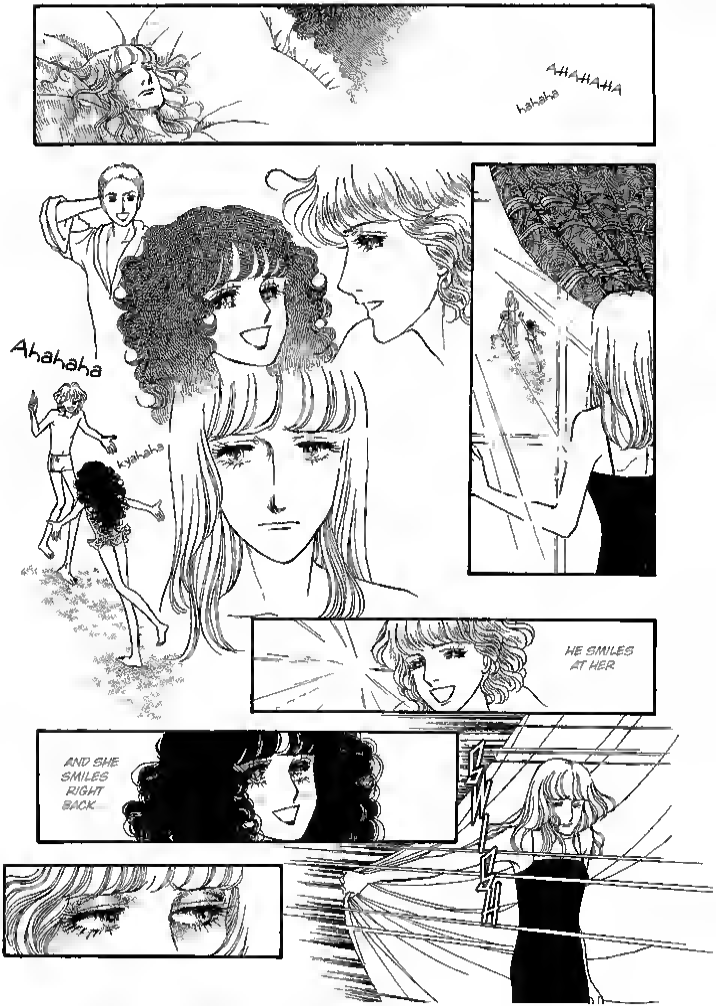
I HAD TO EAT ALL THE DUDS!
HEH!
HAHA, LOOKS LIKE HE SPOTTED THE DUD.
I-I was sure that I got rid of the ones that didn't turn out so nice...
IT STILL TASTES REALLY GOOD THOUGH
THIS ONE?
KYA!
YEAH, YEAH. YOU WERE NERVOUS BECAUSE IT WAS FRANCIS YOU WERE GIVING THIS TOO RIGHT?
AND ANYWAY I DON'T USUALLY MAKE SO MANY MISTAKES WHEN I'M COOKING!
DON'T!
YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T TELL HIM!
glance
GIG GLES
THANKS TO YOU I ENDED UP HAVING TO EAT COOKIES WITH SALT INSTEAD OF SUGAR, AND SUGARLESS COOKIES!
NOOOO!


IF SHE WERE MY SISTER, I'M SURE I WOULD'VE BEEN THE ONE TO HAVE TO EAT THE SUGARLESS COOKIES AND THE ONES WITH SALT IN IT INSTEAD OF SUGAR
I'M SURE IF I HAD A LITTLE SISTER, SHE WOULD BE JUST LIKE HER
HAHA SHE'S MUCH MORE CHARMING WHEN SHE'S NOT PRETENDING TO BE A LADY
HEY FRANCIS WANT TO GO ON A YACHT RIDE WITH US TOMORROW?
WE'RE GOING TO GO SEE THE SUN RISE IT'LL BE A SIGHT TO SEE, I TELL YA!
IT'S GREAT! I LOVE IT. I'M SURE YOU WILL TOO!
Wow that sounds great!
IT'S DELI-CIOUS
Really ?!
I WOULD PROBABLY BE DRUNK ON WARMTH...
AND SWALLOW THE TASTE OF HAPPINESS
MUNCH

I'M A BIT TIRED. SO I'M GOING BACK TO THE HOUSE
DO AS YOU'D LIKE
SO THE DAY HAS COME THAT HE WOULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE THIS TO ME
HE WAS ALWAYS THE ONE TO WANT TO STAY BY MY SIDE
IS IT OKAY IF I GO NATALIE?
I REALLY WANT TO SEE IT!
U-UM MS. NATALIE!
IT'D BE REALLY GREAT IF YOU COULD COME ALONG TOO
I'M SURE IF YOU SAW IT YOU'D BE IMPRESSED TOO
IT'S REALLY PRETTY


BUT I'M I'M NOT A SORRY MORNING PERSON
IRRITATES ME
HER SMILE SEEPED IN HAPPINESS
THE BRIGHT UNWAVERING EYES THAT HAVE KNOWN NO FEAR GAZING AT ME ARE LIKE DAGGERS TO ME
SHE LOOKS AS IF SHE'S NEVER EXPERIENCED ONE GRAIN OF UNHAPPINESS
AND THEY COME SWARMING AT ME...
THE THINGS THAT ARE SUPPOSED TO BE A GIVEN ARE REPLACED BY THE THINGS THAT I HATE THE MOST
THE LITTLE THINGS STOP ME IN MY TRACKS
WHAT SHOULD BE NOTHING ENDS UP PROVOKING ME...

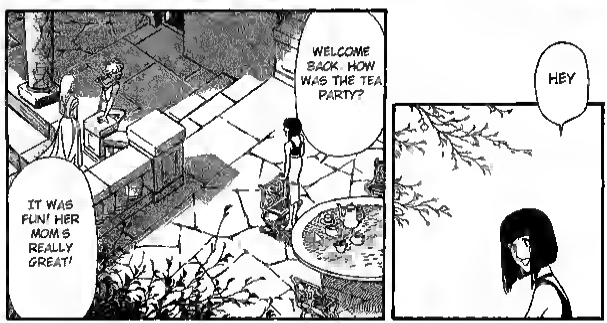

...IT'S AS IF I CAN'T BREATHE.

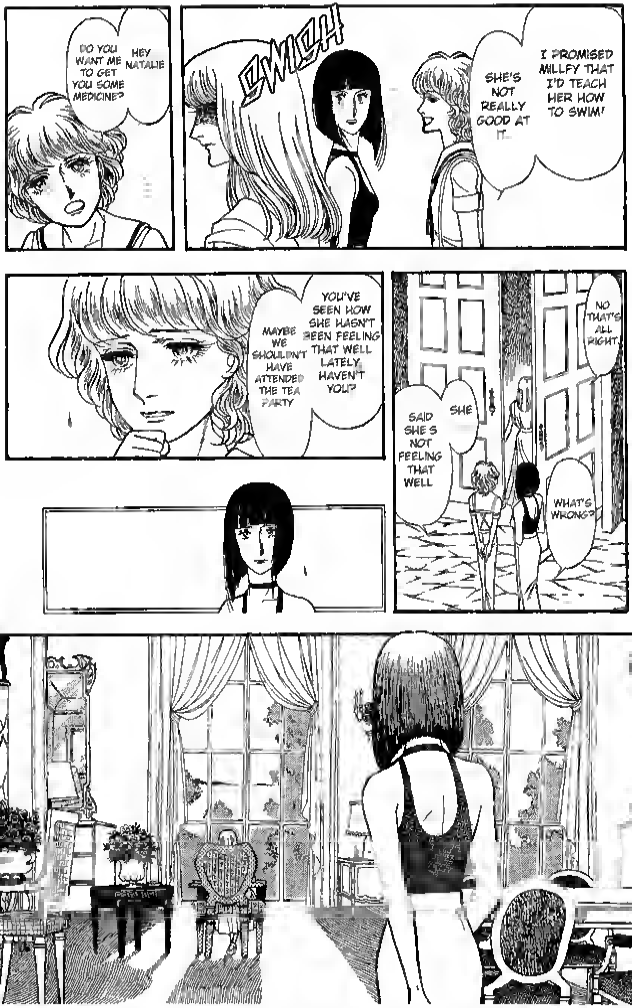

AHAHAHA
hahaha
Ahahaha
kyahaha
HE SMILES AT HER
AND SHE SMILES RIGHT BACK
SWISH

I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL SUCH A WARM FEELING OF HAPPINESS WHEN I'M WITH SUCH PEOPLE!
I JUST ADORE BEING WITH BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE SUCH AS YOURSELF.
I FEEL SO HONOURED TO HAVE MET YOU
EVEN SOMEONE AS OLD AS ME FEELS EXCITED READING IT!
HOW IS IT THAT YOU'RE ABLE TO WRITE SUCH LOVELY STORIES?
HE'S CUTE, DON'T YOU AGREE? HIS NAME'S BELL-BELL!
I'VE RAISED HIM SINCE HE WAS JUST A TINY THING!
YES, DON'T YOU THINK SO?
THEY MAKE SUCH AN ADORABLE COUPLE!
THEY'RE JUST AS YOU'VE SAID, DARLING!

I WANT TO GET BETTER AT SWIMMING WILL YOU TEACH ME?
FEEL FREE TO VISIT US ANY TIME FRANCIS
SURE! SWIMMING'S MY SPECIALITY!
What?
THEY MAKE SUCH A LOVELY COUPLE!
DON'T YOU AGREE MS NATALIE?
YES, OH YES THEY DO
MY MY YOU SURE HAVE TAKEN A LIKING TO FRANCIS HAVEN'T YOU MILLY?
NO! I WANT FRANCIS TO TEACH ME!
COUGH
YOU KNOW I'M PRETTY GOOD AT SWIMMING TOO
WELL EXCUSE ME
OH, I WISH I HAD A CHILD LIKE FRANCIS!
Giggles
I'M SURE A LACE BLOUSE WOULD LOOK JUST PERFECT ON HIM!
I ADORE SUCH A DARLING BOY LIKE FRANCIS, TOO!

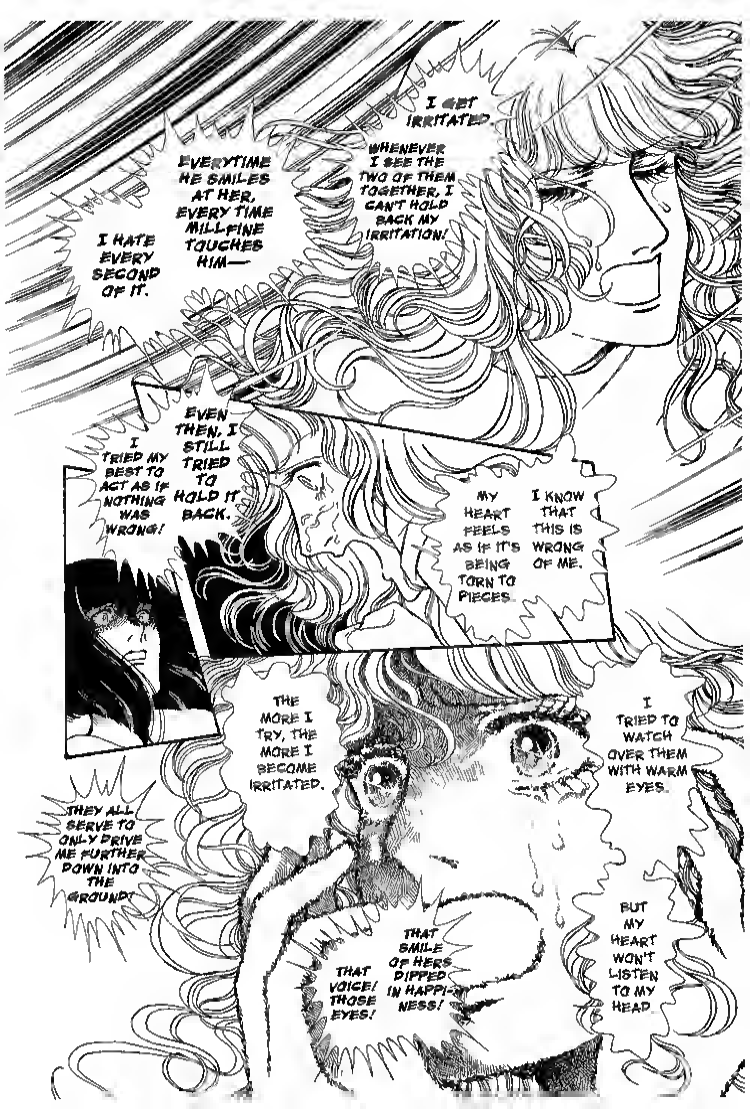
B-But... that's...
HUH?!
THEN ALL I HAVE TO DO IS MARRY FRANCIS!
HAHA, HE'S BLUSHING!
What a lovely idea!
Hahahaha


WELCOME BACK. HOW WAS THE TEA PARTY?
IT WAS FUN! HER MOM'S REALLY GREAT!
HEY


I PROMISED MILLFY THAT I'D TEACH HER HOW TO SWIM!
SHE'S NOT REALLY GOOD AT IT...
SWISH!
HEY NATALIE
DO YOU WANT ME TO GET YOU SOME MEDICINE?
NO, THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
SHE SAID SHE'S NOT FEELING THAT WELL
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU'VE SEEN HOW SHE HASN'T BEEN FEELING THAT WELL LATELY, HAVEN'T YOU?
MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T HAVE ATTENDED THE TEA PARTY

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER.
NATALIE
DON'T LOOK AT ME!
I KNOW IT IN MY HEART
I KNOW
THAT HE'S NOT THE FRANCIS I LOVED. EVEN I KNOW THAT...
NO MATTER HOW ALIKE THEY ARE I KNOW THAT HE'S NOT FRANCIS.
MY FRANCIS NO LONGER EXISTS.

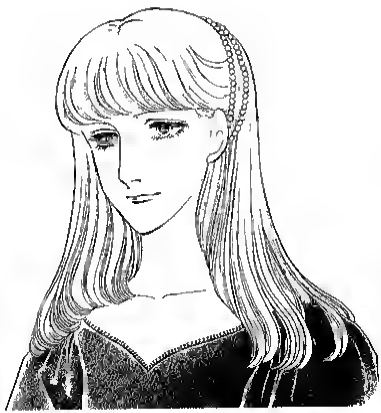
I KNOW I HAVE NO RIGHT TO HOLD HIM DOWN...
WHOM HE GAZES AT... WHOM HE LOVES... I KNOW THAT THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME
I KNOW HE HAS HIS LIFE... AND THAT I HAVE MINE...
STILL, I...
NATALIE
I CAN'T HELP IT...


I GET IRRITATED.
WHENEVER I SEE THE TWO OF THEM TOGETHER, I CAN'T HOLD BACK MY IRRITATION!
EVERYTIME HE SMILES AT HER, EVERY TIME MILLFINE TOUCHES HIM—
I HATE EVERY SECOND OF IT.
I KNOW THAT THIS IS WRONG OF ME.
MY HEART FEELS AS IF IT'S BEING TORN TO PIECES.
EVEN THEN, I STILL TRIED TO HOLD IT BACK.
I TRIED MY BEST TO ACT AS IF NOTHING WAS WRONG!
I TRIED TO WATCH OVER THEM WITH WARM EYES.
THE MORE I TRY, THE MORE I BECOME IRRITATED.
THEY ALL SERVE TO ONLY DRIVE ME FURTHER DOWN INTO THE GROUND!
BUT MY HEART WON'T LISTEN TO MY HEAD.
THAT SMILE OF HERS DRIPPED IN HAPPINESS!
THAT VOICE! THOSE EYES!

THIS IS JUST TOO MUCH!
THIS ...
CRASH

I DON'T KNOW— WHAT I SHOULD DO ANYMORE

THAT SMILE OF HERS DIPPED IN HAPPINESS!
THAT VOICE! THOSE EYES!
THEY ALL SERVE TO ONLY DRIVE ME FURTHER DOWN INTO THE GROUND!



Ishoujo Scans

Translator OceanSportrait
Proofreader Createmagic
Cleaner Alicca
Typesetter Alicca
QCer OceanSportrait

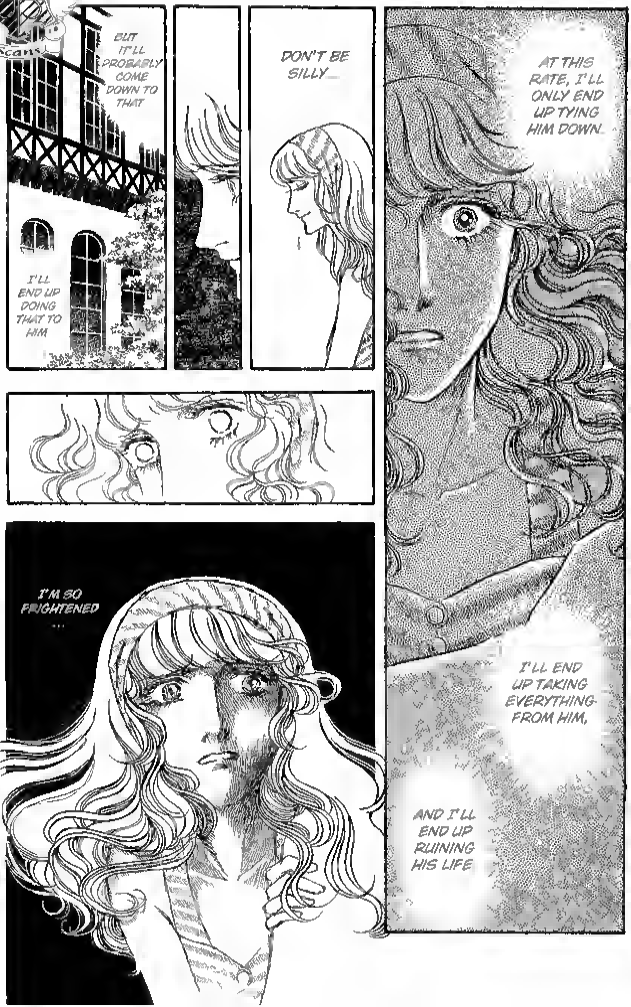
CHAPTER 15

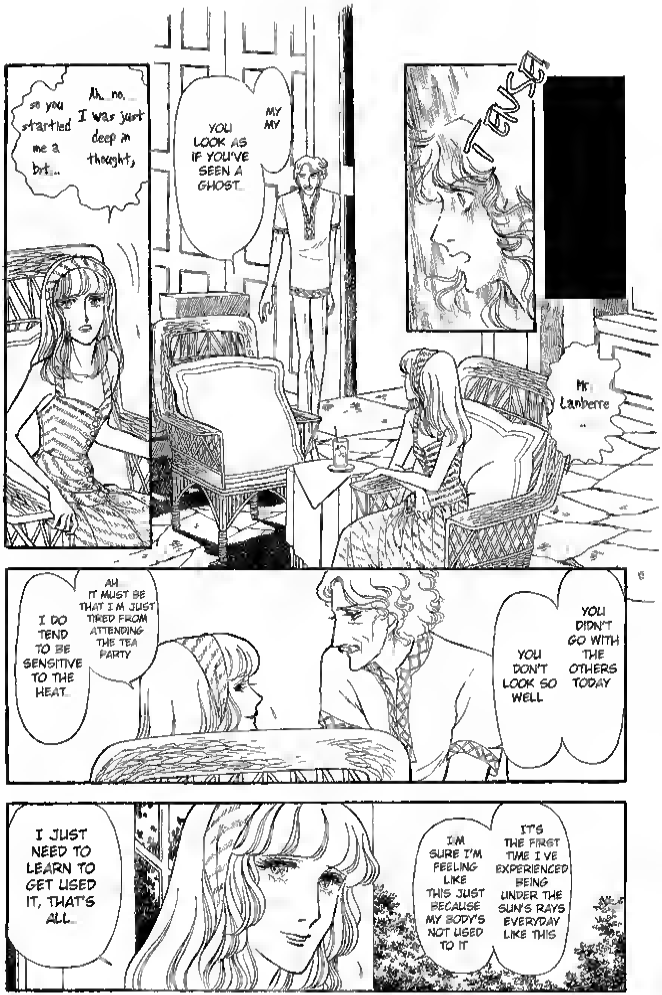
SUNA NO SHIRO

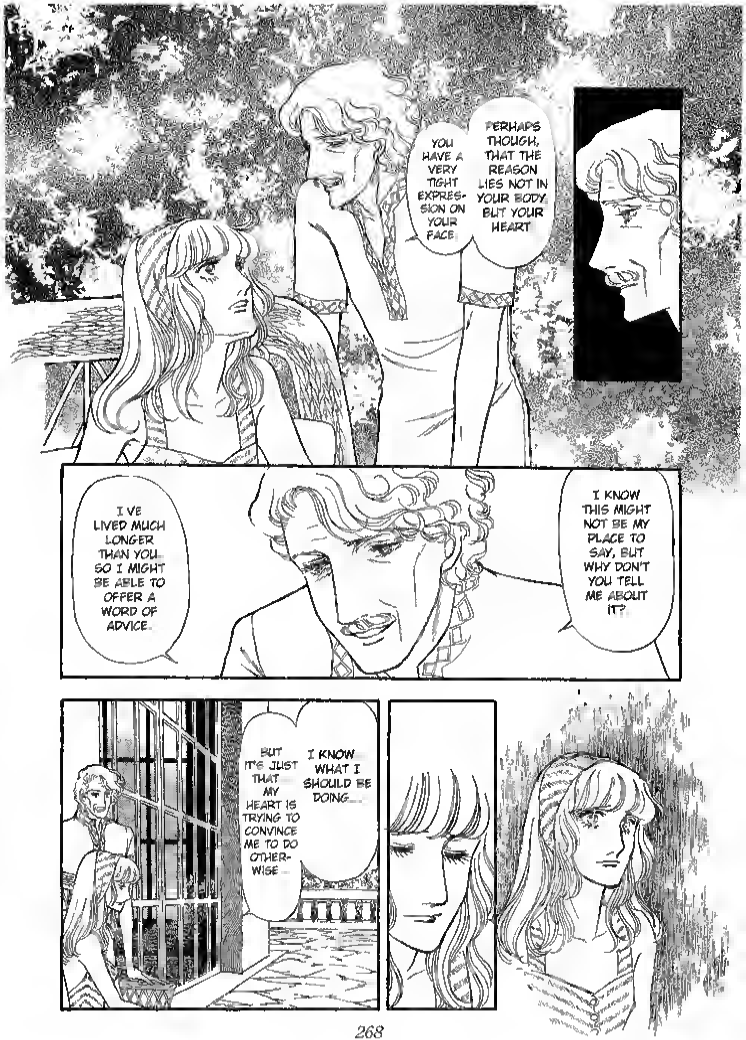
CICADAS CRYING
I'M SUCH A TERRIBLE PERSON... I TAKE OUT ALL MY FRUSTRATION ON OTHERS.
HOW DID I COME TO BE LIKE THIS?
CLATTER
I DON'T WANT TO STAY HERE ANY LONGER...
PERHAPS I SHOULD JUST GO HOME?

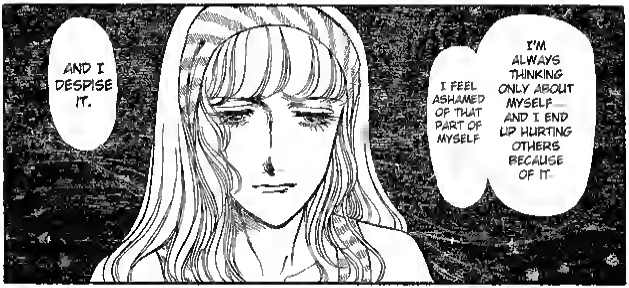
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE ONE WHO WISHES FOR HIS HAPPINESS ABOVE ALL... AND YET IT IS I WHO CAN'T BE HAPPY FOR HIM
MILLFINE IS A NICE GIRL.
THEY MAKE AN ADORABLE COUPLE -- EVEN I CAN SEE THAT
IS IT BECAUSE IT'S MILLFINE?
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
IT'S NOT BECAUSE IT'S MILLFINE.
IT'S BECAUSE FRANCIS, WHO ONLY EVER GAZED UP AT ME, HAS DRIFTED HIS GAZE TO ANOTHER.
WHAT I DON'T WANT IS FOR HIM TO PART FROM ME.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY HEART?
IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF HER.
WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME?!

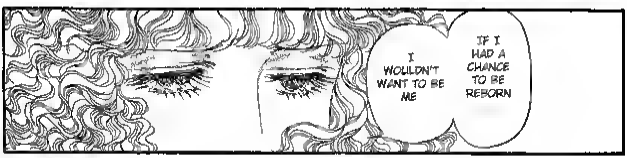
I WANT TO LOCK HIM UP.
I WANT FOR HIM TO FOREVER REMAIN AS HE IS— MINE.
I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO COME BETWEEN ME AND HIM!
PLEASE, I BEG YOU, DON'T TAKE HIM AWAY FROM ME!
I'LL...
ONLY END UP RUINING HIM...


BUT IT'LL PROBABLY COME DOWN TO THAT
I'LL END UP DOING THAT TO HIM
DON'T BE SILLY...
AT THIS RATE, I'LL ONLY END UP TYING HIM DOWN.
I'M SO FRIGHTENED ...
I'LL END UP TAKING EVERYTHING FROM HIM,
AND I'LL END UP RUINING HIS LIFE


so you startled me a bit...
Ah, no, I was just deep in thought,
MY MY
YOU LOOK AS IF YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST
TENSE
Mr. Lamberre
I DO TEND TO BE SENSITIVE TO THE HEAT
AH IT MUST BE THAT I M JUST TIRED FROM ATTENDING THE TEA PARTY
YOU DON'T LOOK SO WELL
YOU DIDN'T GO WITH THE OTHERS TODAY
I JUST NEED TO LEARN TO GET USED IT, THAT'S ALL
I'M SURE I'M FEELING LIKE THIS JUST BECAUSE MY BODY'S NOT USED TO IT
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EXPERIENCED BEING UNDER THE SUN'S RAYS EVERYDAY LIKE THIS

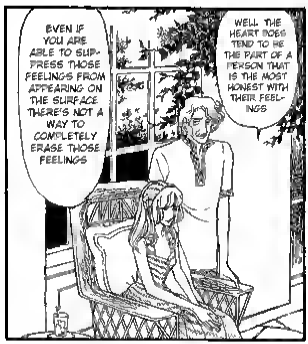

YOU HAVE A VERY TIGHT EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE.
PERHAPS THOUGH, THAT THE REASON LIES NOT IN YOUR BODY, BUT YOUR HEART.
I'VE LIVED MUCH LONGER THAN YOU, SO I MIGHT BE ABLE TO OFFER A WORD OF ADVICE.
I KNOW THIS MIGHT NOT BE MY PLACE TO SAY, BUT WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT IT?
I KNOW WHAT I SHOULD BE DOING...
BUT IT'S JUST THAT MY HEART IS TRYING TO CONVINCE ME TO DO OTHERWISE...


I'M ALWAYS THINKING ONLY ABOUT MYSELF— AND I END UP HURTING OTHERS BECAUSE OF IT.
I FEEL ASHAMED OF THAT PART OF MYSELF
AND I DESPISE IT.

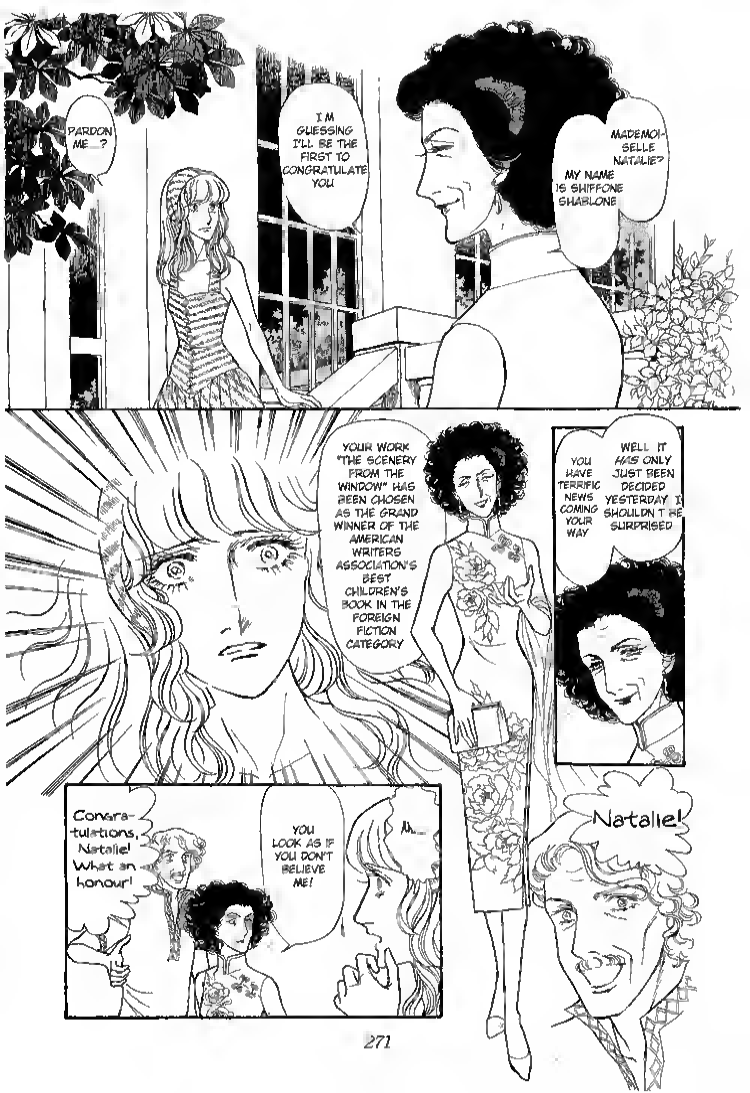

IF I HAD A CHANCE TO BE REBORN
I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE ME

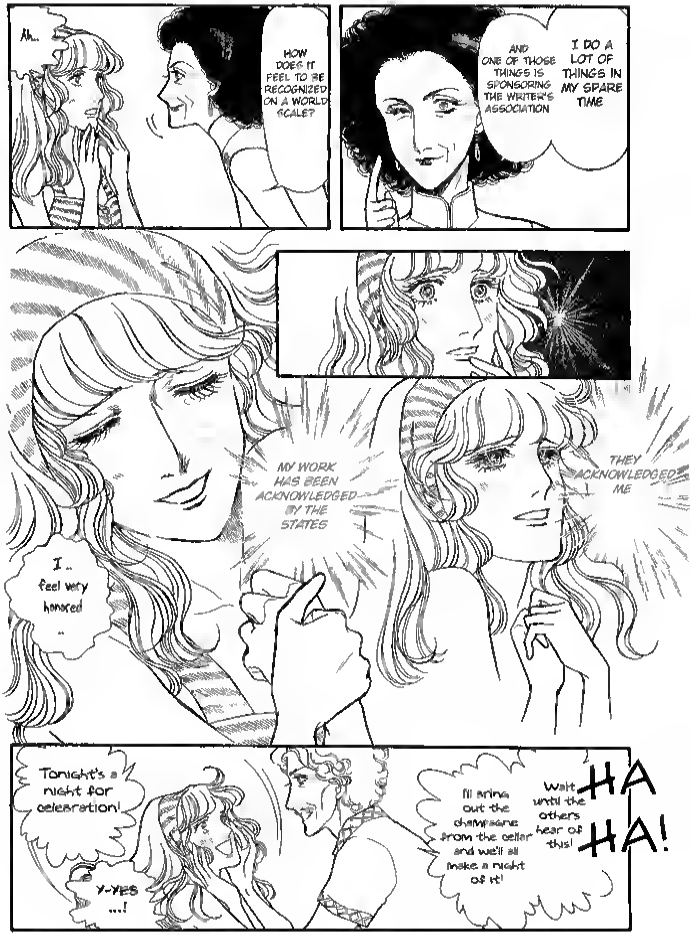
PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT
ALONG THE WAY, PERHAPS THOSE FEELINGS WILL COME TO SURFACE

BUT THE MORE I TRY TO SUPPRESS THOSE FEELINGS THE MORE INSISTENT THEY BECOME

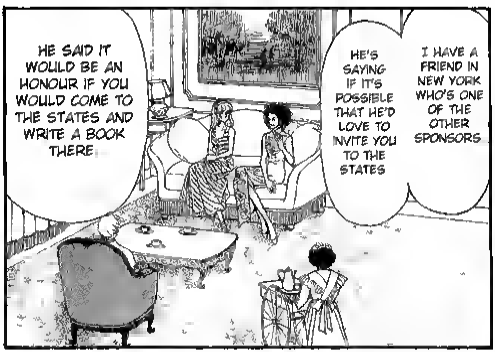

EVEN IF YOU ARE ABLE TO SUPPRESS THOSE FEELINGS FROM APPEARING ON THE SURFACE THERE'S NOT A WAY TO COMPLETELY ERASE THOSE FEELINGS
WELL THE HEART DOES TEND TO BE THE PART OF A PERSON THAT IS THE MOST HONEST WITH THEIR FEELINGS

VAUGHE!
BEEP BEEP
SHIF-FONE!
PERHAPS SHE'S THE EX-FIANCEE OF MR. LAMBERRE FROM LONG AGO THAT ELAINE MENTIONED.
I'M SURPRISED TO SEE YOU HERE!
IT'S NOT YOU I'M HERE TO VISIT TODAY
I JUST CAME BACK FROM NEW YORK
FROM THAT WRITER'S ASSOCIATION MEETING THAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. IT IS ABOUT THAT TIME OF YEAR.


PARDON ME...?
I'M GUESSING I'LL BE THE FIRST TO CONGRATULATE YOU
MADEMOISELLE NATALIE? MY NAME IS SHIFFONE SHARLONE
YOUR WORK "THE SCENERY FROM THE WINDOW" HAS BEEN CHOSEN AS THE GRAND WINNER OF THE AMERICAN WRITERS ASSOCIATION'S BEST CHILDREN'S BOOK IN THE FOREIGN FICTION CATEGORY
YOU HAVE TERRIFIC NEWS COMING YOUR WAY
WELL IT HAS ONLY JUST BEEN DECIDED YESTERDAY I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED
Congratulations, Natalie! What an honour!
YOU LOOK AS IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME!
Mm...
Natalie!


Ah...
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE RECOGNIZED ON A WORLD SCALE?
I DO A LOT OF THINGS IN MY SPARE TIME
AND ONE OF THOSE THINGS IS SPONSORING THE WRITER'S ASSOCIATION
THEY ACKNOWLEDGED ME
MY WORK HAS BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE STATES
I.. feel very honored ..
Tonight's a night for celebration!
Y-YES ...!
I'll bring out the champagne from the cellar and we'll all make a night of it!
Wait until the others hear of this!
HA HA!

FRANCIS!! FRANCIS DID YOU HEAR THAT?
THE FAIRY TALE OF YOU AND I HAS GARNERED A PRIZE!
I'M SO HAPPY!
I'M SO HAPPY!
HA HA HA HA


HE SAID IT WOULD BE AN HONOUR IF YOU WOULD COME TO THE STATES AND WRITE A BOOK THERE.
HE'S SAYING IF IT'S POSSIBLE THAT HE'D LOVE TO INVITE YOU TO THE STATES
I HAVE A FRIEND IN NEW YORK WHO'S ONE OF THE OTHER SPONSORS

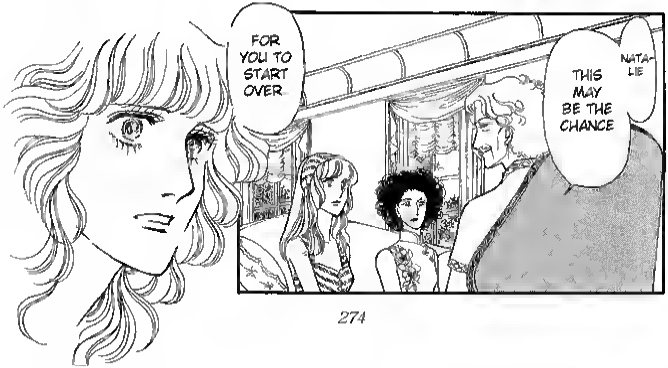
WELL, I GUESS I SHOULD JUST GET RIGHT DOWN TO THE REASON OF WHY I CAME

IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT'S A TOY BOX THAT'S BEEN TURNED UPSIDE DOWN
AMERICA IS A VERY INTERESTING COUNTRY
NOW I'M NOT JUST SAYING THIS BECAUSE HE'S A FRIEND OF MINE, BUT I THINK THAT IF YOU GO, IT'LL BE A BIG PLUS FOR YOU AS A WRITER

...and if I do go...it would be for a while, wouldn't it?
Oh, but I've never even considered going to the United States before...

YES... FOR THE CHILDREN OF AMERICA
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

ME ... GO TO THE STATES?


FOR YOU TO START OVER
NATALIE
THIS MAY BE THE CHANCE

LIVE...
FOR MYSELF ...?
I THINK IT'D GIVE YOU A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO START LIVING FOR YOURSELF FOR ONCE
THAT'S RIGHT
"Chance"...?
YOU DON'T APPEAR TO TRY TO DERIVE YOUR REASON FOR BEING FROM WITHIN YOURSELF, BUT CAN IT BE REALLY SAID THAT YOU CAN'T FIND WHAT YOU'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR ALL ALONG RIGHT INSIDE YOU?
IT'S THE SAME WITH REGARDS TO FRANCIS I BELIEVE
YOU CAN LEARN A LOT FROM STEPPING BACK AND OBSERVING THINGS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE
I THINK GOING AND SEEING HOW FAR YOU CAN GET WOULD SERVE AS A GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR YOU
IF YOU CAN'T LOVE, THEN YOU SHOULD LEARN TO LOVE YOURSELF MORE
YOU SHOULD TRY LIVING FOR YOURSELF MORE...

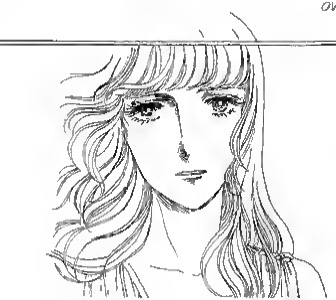
WELL, I'LL BE OFF NATALIE, I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN SOON
(HUCKLES) I GUESS YOU HAVEN'T TASTED THE PLEASURE OF SUCH AN ACT?
THAT DOES TEND TO BE A BAD HABIT OF YOURS, INDEED
HOW TOUCHING, VAUGHE
I DO SO LOVE POISONING THE MINDS OF YOUNG BEAUTIFUL WOMEN SUCH AS YOURSELF
I CAME HERE TODAY AS AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE ASSOCIATION, SO I M SORRY WE DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO CHIT-CHAT ON A MORE PERSONAL LEVEL
VROOM
AMERICA--

I KNOW THAT I CAN'T STAY AS I AM NOW.
AT THIS RATE, I'LL ONLY DRIVE FRANCIS AND MYSELF DOWN INTO THE GROUND.
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO START OVER.
MY SELFISH-NESS WILL ONLY END UP HURTING THOSE I CARE ABOUT
THIS IS THE CHANCE FOR ME TO FIND THE REASON FOR BEING IN MYSELF.

CONGRATULATIONS NATALIE!
I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, CONGRATULATIONS
Hey everyone, why don't we make this a special day from now on
And we can celebrate it every year!
A TOAST FROM ME TO YOU, NATALIE!
YES LET'S! THIS CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION!
THANK YOU FRANCIS
Amazing Natalie! Your excellent ingenuity is truly amazing!

THE FRIENDS WHO HAVE WATCHED OVER ME

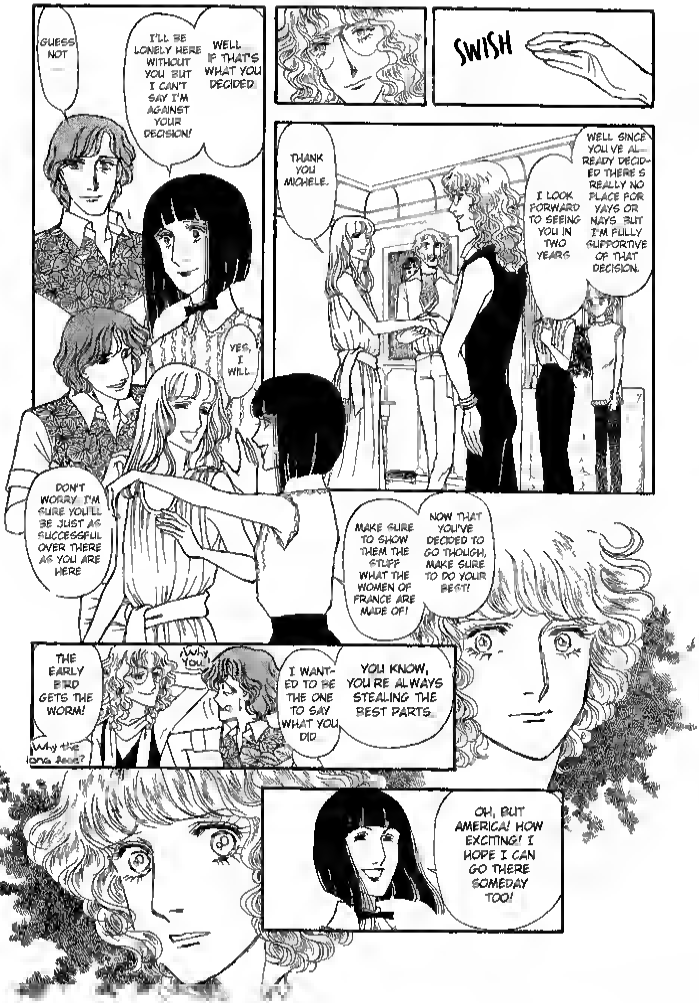
THESE KIND PEOPLE...



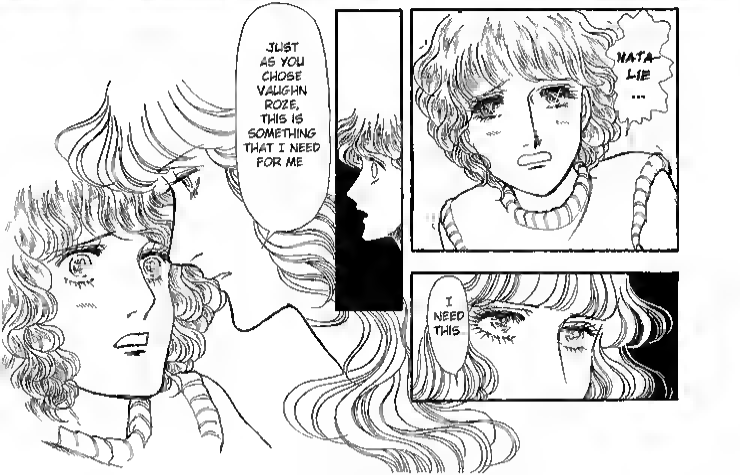
LOOKING BACK ON IT NOW THEY WERE ALWAYS THERE TO OFFER AN OUT-STRETCHED HAND WHEN I NEEDED IT

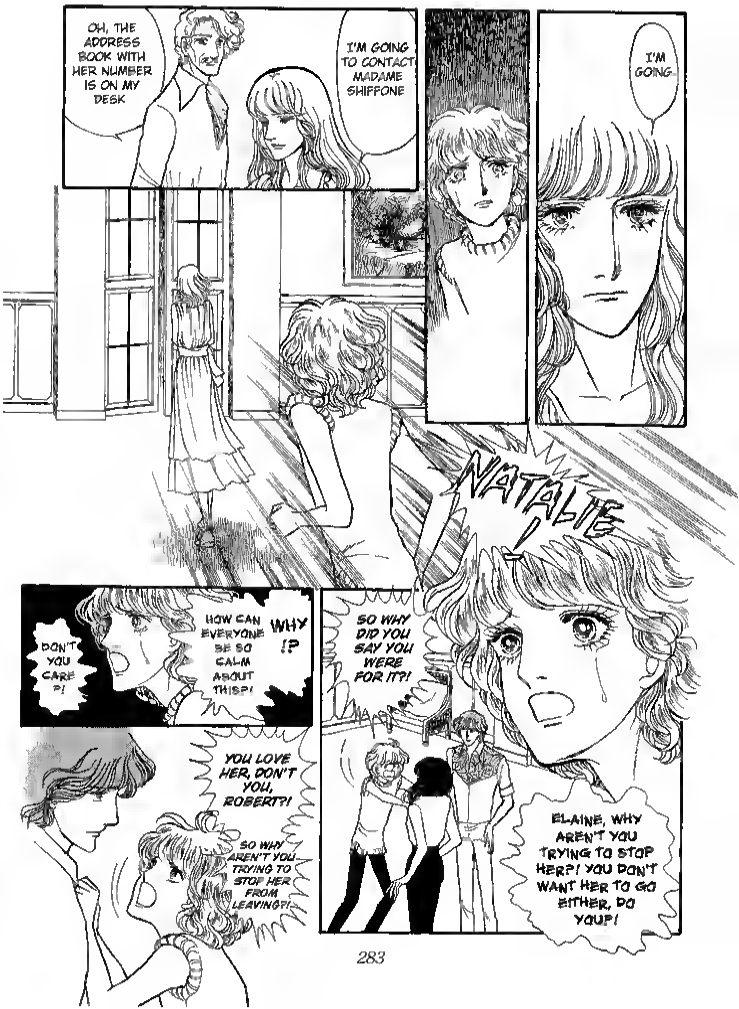
MR. LANEERRE ABOUT FRANCIS
DON'T WORRY. YOU CAN LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME.
I WISH I COULD GO TOO
DON'T FORGET TO BRING ME BACK A GIFT!
OH, YES, OF COURSE. YOU DEFINITELY SHOULD BE THERE FOR THE CEREMONY!
YOU MIGHT WANT TO THINK ABOUT TOURING THE CITY WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.
I'M PLANNING ON GOING TO THE STATES.
HEY, DON'T TELL ME YOU TWO ARE KEEPING SOMETHING FROM US?
WAIT... WHEN YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO GO, IT'S NOT JUST TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY?
WHAT'S GOING ON, NATALIE...?
W-WHAT...?! WAIT, BUT WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN...?
WHAT!
I'M PLANNING ON STAYING FOR TWO YEARS. I DON'T PLAN ON COMING BACK DURING THAT TIME.
I DECIDED THAT I'D GO TO THE STATES TO WORK THERE FOR A WHILE.
Shoujo Scans

NATALIE! WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
Y-YOU DIDN'T TELL ME ANY OF THIS...
A SPONSOR FROM THE WRITER'S ASSOCIATION INVITED ME
APPARENTLY HE WANTS ME TO WRITE A BOOK THERE FROM MY PERSPECTIVE OF THE STATES
I PLAN ON ACCEPTING HIS OFFER
I'M SORRY ROBERT THAT I DIDN'T DISCUSS THINGS WITH YOU BEFORE DECIDING WHEN YOU'VE BEEN SUCH A WONDERFUL SUPPORT TO ME OVER THE YEARS
BUT I WANTED THIS TO BE MY DECISION ALONE
I WANTED TO THINK THINGS OVER AND MAKE MY DECISION ALONE
AND I DECIDED-- THAT I'M GOING TO AMERICA


GUESS NOT...
I'LL BE LONELY HERE WITHOUT YOU BUT I CAN'T SAY I'M AGAINST YOUR DECISION!
WELL IF THAT'S WHAT YOU DECIDED
SWISH
YES, I WILL
THANK YOU MICHELE.
I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN TWO YEARS
WELL SINCE YOU'VE ALREADY DECIDED THERE'S REALLY NO PLACE FOR YAYS OR NAYS BUT I'M FULLY SUPPORTIVE OF THAT DECISION.
DON'T WORRY. I'M SURE YOU'LL BE JUST AS SUCCESSFUL OVER THERE AS YOU ARE HERE
MAKE SURE TO SHOW THEM THE STUFF WHAT THE WOMEN OF FRANCE ARE MADE OF!
NOW THAT YOU'VE DECIDED TO GO THOUGH, MAKE SURE TO DO YOUR BEST!
THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM!
WHY YOU!
I WANTED TO BE THE ONE TO SAY WHAT YOU DID
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE ALWAYS STEALING THE BEST PARTS...
OH, BUT AMERICA! HOW EXCITING! I HOPE I CAN GO THERE SOMEDAY TOO!

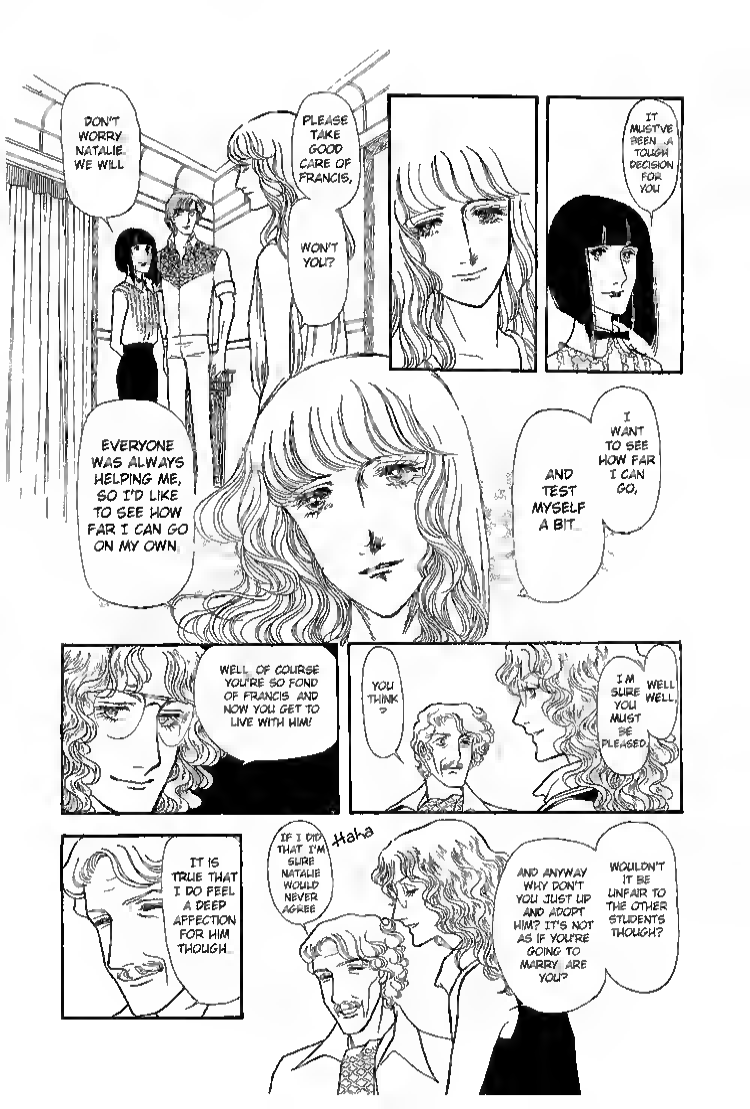
I-I'M AGAINST THIS!-
I DON'T WANT YOU TO GO!!
YOU'RE GOING TO BE GONE FOR TWO YEARS, AREN'T YOU!?
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN BE FOR IT WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO BE GONE FOR TWO WHOLE YEARS!
Don't go, Natalie!
I won't be able to wait that long. I just can't!
IF YOU STILL WANT TO GO— THEN TAKE ME WITH YOU!
TAKE ME WITH YOU TO AMERICA!

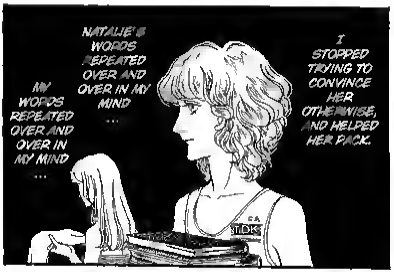

NATALIE ...
I NEED THIS
JUST AS YOU CHOSE VAUGHN ROZE, THIS IS SOMETHING THAT I NEED FOR ME


OH, THE ADDRESS BOOK WITH HER NUMBER IS ON MY DESK
I'M GOING TO CONTACT MADAME SHIFFONE
I'M GOING
NATALIE!
DON'T YOU CARE?!
HOW CAN EVERYONE BE SO CALM ABOUT THIS?!
WHY!?
SO WHY DID YOU SAY YOU WERE FOR IT?!
YOU LOVE HER, DON'T YOU, ROBERT?!
SO WHY AREN'T YOU TRYING TO STOP HER FROM LEAVING?!
ELAINE, WHY AREN'T YOU TRYING TO STOP HER?! YOU DON'T WANT HER TO GO EITHER, DO YOU?!

DON'T YOU FEEL SAD?! DON'T YOU FEEL LONELY?! ARE YOU REALLY SAYING YOU'RE GOING TO BE FINE WITHOUT HER?!
SO WHY AREN'T YOU TRYING TO STOP HER?!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO SEE HER FOR TWO WHOLE YEARS!
THE PERSON YOU CARE ABOUT IS GOING TO LEAVE!
WELL, THAT WAS THE SAME WAY FOR NATALIE
WHEN YOU CHOSE TO GO TO YOUR CURRENT SCHOOL THOSE WERE THE KINDS OF FEELINGS SHE STRUGGLED WITH TOO
IF YOU TRULY CARE FOR NATALIE
THEN YOU SHOULD DO YOUR BEST TO SUPPORT HER.
FRANCIS, WE DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO INTERFERE
NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO HOLD HER BACK FROM THE PATH SHE'S TRYING TO TAKE

I DECIDED THAT I WOULD PROTECT HER.
SHE'S SOMEONE PRECIOUS TO ME. SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN MY LIFE.
I DECIDED ...
THAT I WOULD MAKE NATALIE HAPPY.
THE ONLY THING I CAN DO IS SUPPORT HER IN HER DECISION
HOW POWERLESS I AM
I CAN'T PROTECT HER.
I ASKED HER IF SHE WOULD ARRANGE FOR MY STAY AS SOON AS SHE CAN.
ONCE EVERYTHING'S READY, I PLAN ON LEAVING RIGHT AWAY


DON'T WORRY NATALIE. WE WILL
PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF FRANCIS, WON'T YOU?
IT MUST'VE BEEN A TOUGH DECISION FOR YOU
EVERYONE WAS ALWAYS HELPING ME, SO I'D LIKE TO SEE HOW FAR I CAN GO ON MY OWN.
I WANT TO SEE HOW FAR I CAN GO, AND TEST MYSELF A BIT.
WELL, OF COURSE YOU'RE SO FOND OF FRANCIS AND NOW YOU GET TO LIVE WITH HIM!
YOU THINK ?
I'M SURE YOU MUST BE PLEASED.
WELL, WELL.
IT IS TRUE THAT I DO FEEL A DEEP AFFECTION FOR HIM THOUGH.
IF I DID THAT I'M SURE NATALIE WOULD NEVER AGREE
Haha
AND ANYWAY WHY DON'T YOU JUST UP AND ADOPT HIM? IT'S NOT AS IF YOU'RE GOING TO MARRY ARE YOU?
WOULDN'T IT BE UNFAIR TO THE OTHER STUDENTS THOUGH?


MY WORDS REPEATED OVER AND OVER IN MY MIND ...
NATALIE'S WORDS REPEATED OVER AND OVER IN MY MIND ...
I STOPPED TRYING TO CONVINCE HER OTHERWISE, AND HELPED HER PACK.

ONCE WE RETURNED HOME, SHE STARTED PACKING HER THINGS

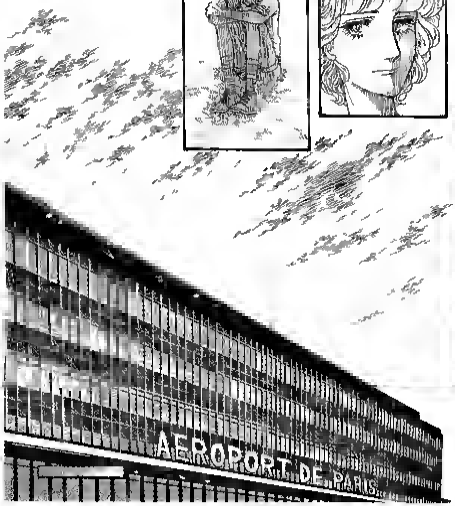
SHE GATHERED THE THINGS SHE WOULD BE TAKING WITH HER, AND SHE CLEANED UP THE ROOMS

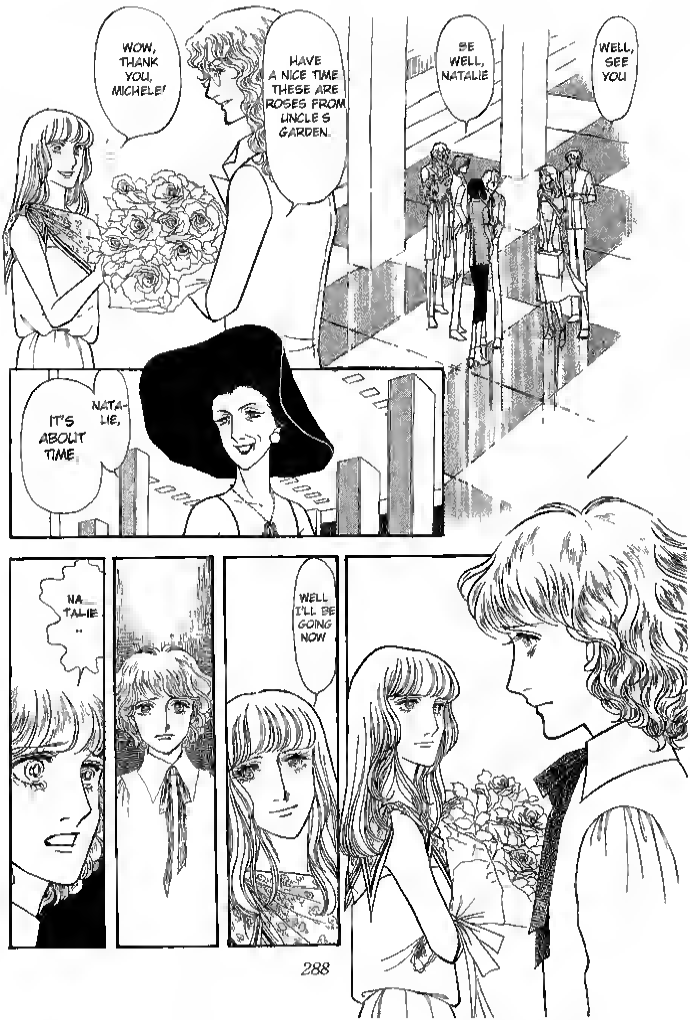
EVERYTHING HAD BEEN SET THE DAY BEFORE I STARTED SCHOOL.

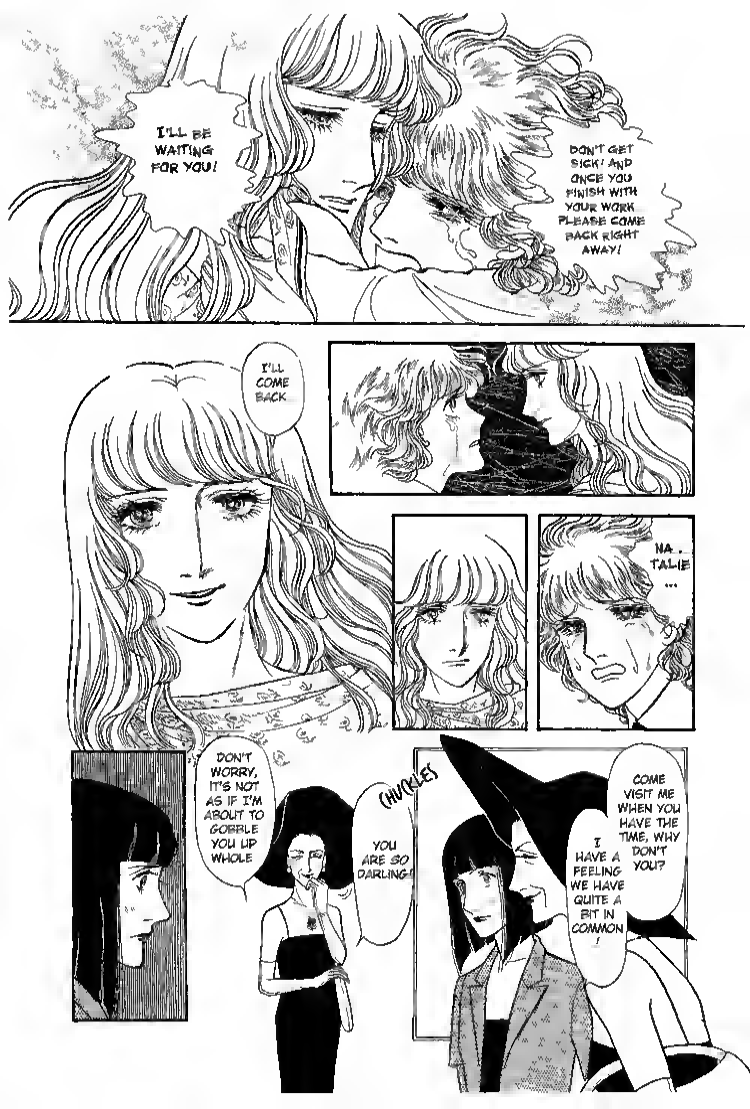
I REPEATED THOSE WORDS LIKE A CHANT, OVER AND OVER IN MY MIND

THE ONLY THING I CAN DO — IS TO GROW AS A PERSON IN THE TWO YEARS THAT SHE'LL BE GONE

THE ONLY THING I CAN DO — IS NOT BE A BURDEN TO HER

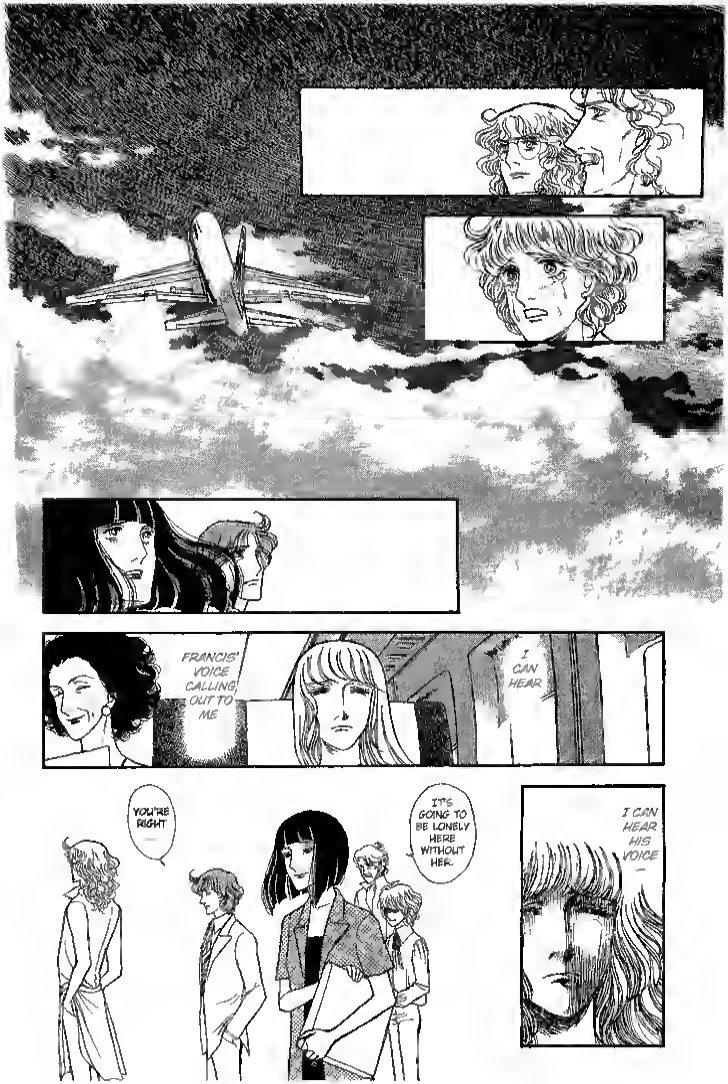



WOW, THANK YOU, MICHELE!
HAVE A NICE TIME. THESE ARE ROSES FROM UNCLE'S GARDEN.
BE WELL, NATALIE
WELL, SEE YOU
NATA-LIE,
IT'S ABOUT TIME.
NA-TALIE ..
WELL I'LL BE GOING NOW.


I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU!
DON'T GET SICK! AND ONCE YOU FINISH WITH YOUR WORK PLEASE COME BACK RIGHT AWAY!
I'LL COME BACK.
NA. TALIE ...
COME VISIT ME WHEN YOU HAVE THE TIME, WHY DON'T YOU?
I HAVE A FEELING WE HAVE QUITE A BIT IN COMMON!
(HI)(KLE)
YOU ARE SO DARLING!
DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOT AS IF I'M ABOUT TO GOBBLE YOU UP WHOLE

NATALIE IS LEAVING.
NATALIE'S LEAVING FOR AMERICA
PAN AM
I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE HER FOR TWO WHOLE YEARS...
I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE HER ANY MORE
SHE'S LEAVING...
NATALIE'S LEAVING...!

PAN AM
PAN AM
NATALIE!


FRANCIS' VOICE CALLING OUT TO ME
I CAN HEAR
YOU'RE RIGHT —
IT'S GOING TO BE LONELY HERE WITHOUT HER.
I CAN HEAR HIS VOICE —

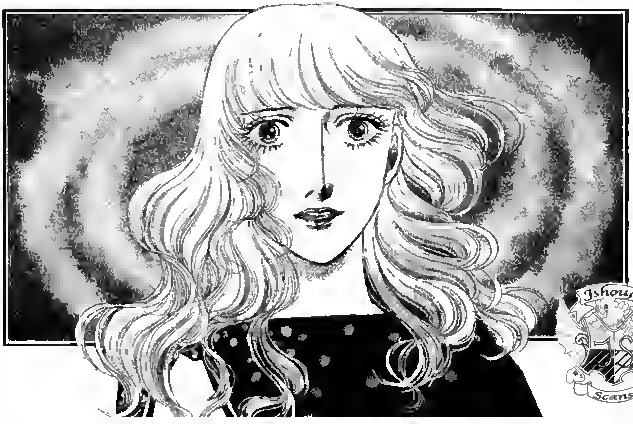
SCHOOL STARTS TOMOR-ROW, FRANCIS.
YOU HAVE TO WIDEN YOUR HORIZONS.
THERE ARE MANY THINGS YOU HAVE YET TO LEARN.

Ishoujo Scans

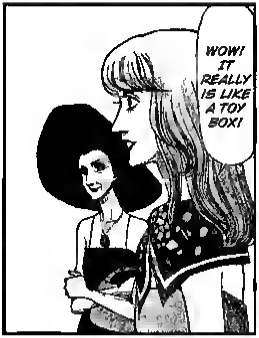
Translator OCEANSPORTRAIT
Proofreader CREATEMAGIC
Cleaner ALICCA
Typesetter ALICCA
QCer OCEANSPORTRAIT

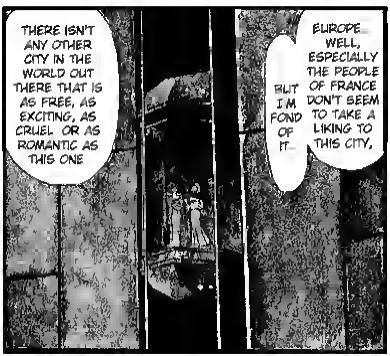
CHAPTER 15

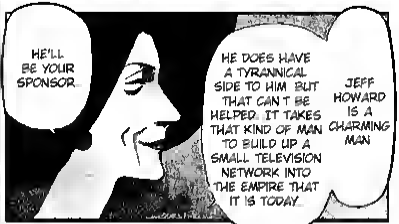
SUNA NO SHIRO



HERE, ANYTHING THAT YOUR HEART DESIRES IS ONLY AN ARM'S LENGTH AWAY


WOW! IT REALLY IS LIKE A TOY BOX!

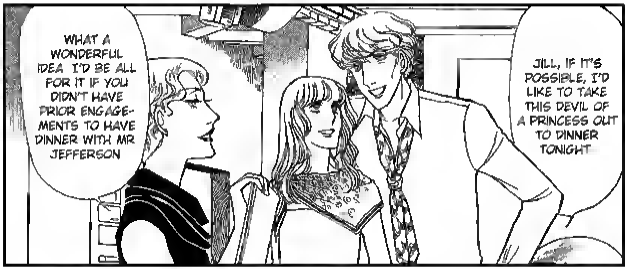

THERE ISN'T ANY OTHER CITY IN THE WORLD OUT THERE THAT IS AS FREE, AS EXCITING, AS CRUEL OR AS ROMANTIC AS THIS ONE
BUT I'M FOND OF IT.
EUROPE... WELL, ESPECIALLY THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE DON'T SEEM TO TAKE A LIKING TO THIS CITY,

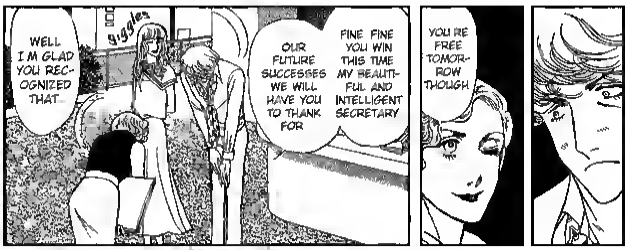

HE'LL BE YOUR SPONSOR.
HE DOES HAVE A TYRANNICAL SIDE TO HIM BUT THAT CAN'T BE HELPED. IT TAKES THAT KIND OF MAN TO BUILD UP A SMALL TELEVISION NETWORK INTO THE EMPIRE THAT IT IS TODAY.
JEFF HOWARD IS A CHARMING MAN

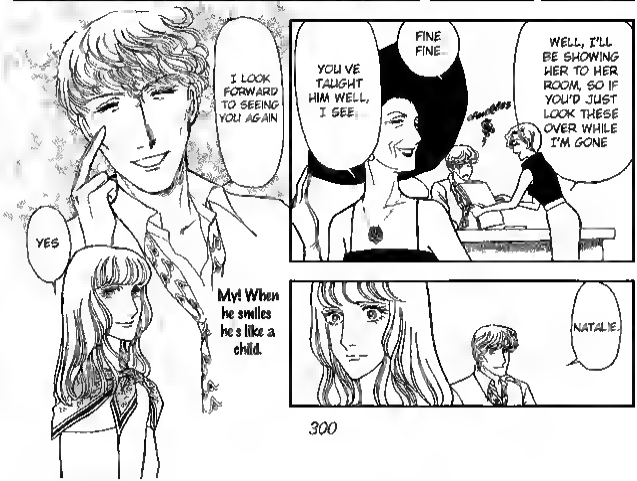
IF YOU WANT TO WORK IN THE FOREFRONT, YOU HAVE TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING BETTER THAN THIS!
THE RATINGS WENT DOWN 6%!
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU TO NOT USE THAT WORTHLESS PIECE OF SHIT YOU CALL AN ACTRESS!
Swi
sh
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF BECOMING IMMUNE TO IT MADAME
IT USED TO TIRE ME OUT AS WELL
I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN STAND IT
HERE THE BACKGROUND MUSIC IS THE SOUND OF PEOPLE YELLING AND THE TALKS OF RATINGS
MADAME SHIFFONE
THANKS TO YOU I'VE JUST WASTED 20 MINUTES!
IF SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENS AGAIN, YOU MIGHT AS WELL CONSIDER YOURSELF FIRED! DO YOU HEAR ME?!
and he is very handsome.
But he's younger than I imagined
He... seems very frightening.
CLANG
GARAGE

YES OF COURSE
I WAS A BIT DISAPPOINTED TO SEE YOU DIDN'T COME ALONG THOUGH
DID MY DRIVER MAKE SURE TO COME PICK YOU UP ON TIME?
WHY OF COURSE. WELCOME, MADAME.
DO YOU MIND IF WE TAKE YOU AWAY FROM YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE FOR A MOMENT?
MY WORK DOES TEND TO TIE ME DOWN
NICE TO MEET YOU
WELCOME
NATALIE, THIS IS JEFF HOWARD AND HIS SECRETARY, JILL CARTER.
I'M WELL AWARE THAT YOU RE AS BUSY AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
PARDON?
IT SEEMS YOU'VE TAKEN UP THE WRONG PROFESSION

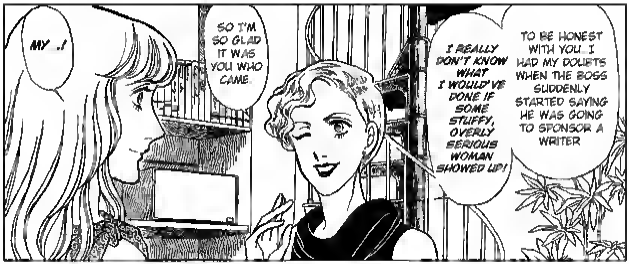
HMM?
WELL PERHAPS I COULD ASK THE SAME TO YOU
HOW ABOUT IT? DO YOU WANT TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH US? WE'LL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE
YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL. YOU SHOULD BE WORKING AS AN ACTRESS
Alice
YOU'RE QUITE HANDSOME. WHY DON'T YOU BECOME AN ACTOR YOURSELF, MR. HOWARD?
YES, I'M SURE HE'D BE A HIT!
LOOKS LIKE SHE GOT YOU THERE, JEFF!
MY!
OKAY, OKAY I GIVE UP.
YES, THAT SOUNDS LIKE A FABULOUS IDEA!
IT'LL BE A WONDERFUL ADVERTISEMENT FOR OUR COMPANY
I KNOW JUST THE PART FOR YOU, BOSS!
I'LL BRING IT UP AT THE COMPANY MEETING TOMORROW
H-HEY, JILL!
YOUR TEAMWORK'S IMPECCABLE!
YOU WOMEN DON'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE A MAN A BREAK.
GEEZ

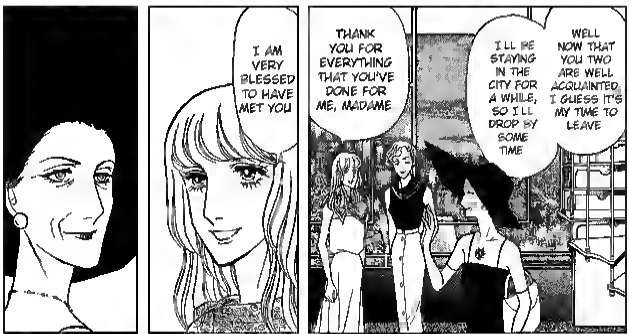

WHAT A WONDERFUL IDEA I'D BE ALL FOR IT IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE PRIOR ENGAGEMENTS TO HAVE DINNER WITH MR. JEFFERSON
JILL, IF IT'S POSSIBLE, I'D LIKE TO TAKE THIS DEVIL OF A PRINCESS OUT TO DINNER TONIGHT

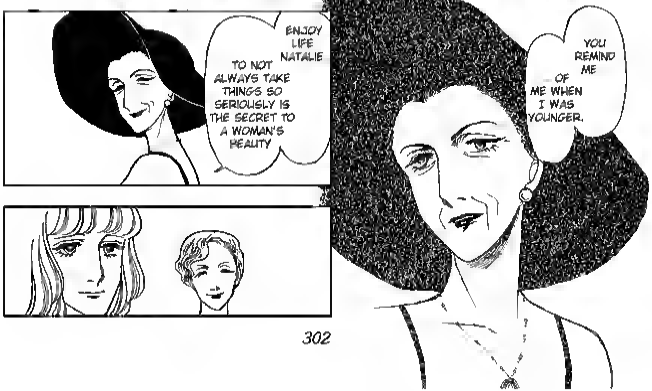

WELL I'M GLAD YOU RECOGNIZED THAT
giggles
OUR FUTURE SUCCESSES WE WILL HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR
FINE FINE YOU WIN THIS TIME MY BEAUTIFUL AND INTELLIGENT SECRETARY
YOU'RE FREE TOMORROW THOUGH


I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN
YES
My! When he smiles he's like a child.
FINE FINE
YOU'VE TAUGHT HIM WELL, I SEE
WELL, I'LL BE SHOWING HER TO HER ROOM, SO IF YOU'D JUST LOOK THESE OVER WHILE I'M GONE
NATALIE

THIS IS THE ROOM HE'S RENTED FOR PRIVATE USE.
SO FEEL FREE TO STAY HERE UNTIL YOU FIND A ROOM OF YOUR OWN THAT YOU FIND MORE SUITABLE
A HOUSE-KEEPER WILL COME AROUND ONCE A DAY. OH, AND IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE YOU NEED... PLEASE LET ME KNOW
IT'S MY JOB TO MAKE SURE YOU CAN CREATE THE BEST WORK THAT YOU CAN.
SO PLEASE DON'T BE SHY AND LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS I'M SURE I CAN BE OF HELP.
HOW KIND OF YOU MISS CARTER.
THANK YOU. I VERY MUCH APPRE-CIATE THAT
PLEASE, CALL ME JILL. WE'RE NOT THAT DIFFERENT IN AGE, SO I'D THINK THAT SOUNDS MORE NATURAL. DON'T YOU AGREE?
MAY I CONSIDER MYSELF YOUR FIRST FRIEND IN THE STATES?
WHY, OF COURSE, JILL!
THAT'S WONDER-FUL! LET'S BE THE BEST OF FRIENDS. WHY DON'T WE?

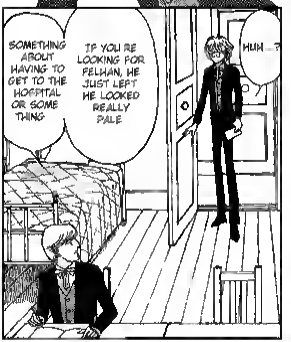

MY ..!
SO I'M SO GLAD IT WAS YOU WHO CAME
I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD'VE DONE IF SOME STUFFY, OVERLY SERIOUS WOMAN SHOWED UP!
TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, I HAD MY DOUBTS WHEN THE BOSS SUDDENLY STARTED SAYING HE WAS GOING TO SPONSOR A WRITER


I AM VERY BLESSED TO HAVE MET YOU
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING THAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME, MADAME
I'LL BE STAYING IN THE CITY FOR A WHILE, SO I'LL DROP BY SOME TIME
WELL NOW THAT YOU TWO ARE WELL ACQUAINTED, I GUESS IT'S MY TIME TO LEAVE


ENJOY LIFE NATALIE
TO NOT ALWAYS TAKE THINGS SO SERIOUSLY IS THE SECRET TO A WOMAN'S BEAUTY
YOU REMIND ME OF ME WHEN I WAS YOUNGER.

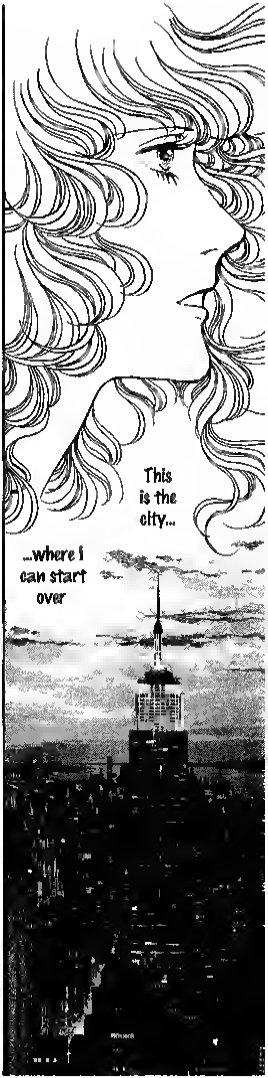
NATALIE, YOUR ENGLISH IS MUCH BETTER THAN MY FRENCH
THANK YOU.
WELL, I'M SURE YOU'RE EXHAUSTED FROM YOUR LONG TRIP. I'LL LEAVE SO YOU CAN GET SOME REST.
It's as if the entire city's made out of a pile of bricks one on top of another
A place with tall brick buildings as far as the eye
There's no mistaking it. I'm no longer in France.

FELHAN, I GOT A LETTER FROM NATALIE!
SHE SAID ONCE SHE'S SETTLED DOWN, SHE'S GOING TO GO AROUND TO ALL THESE DIFFERENT PLACES

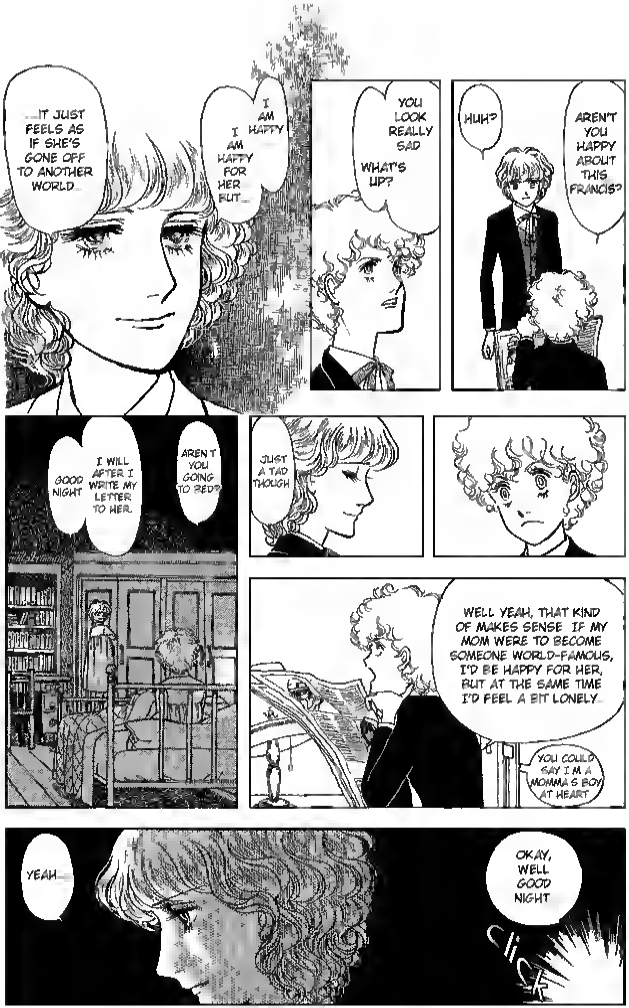

HUH...?
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR FELHAN, HE JUST LEFT HE LOOKED REALLY PALE
SOMETHING ABOUT HAVING TO GET TO THE HOSPITAL OR SOME THING

THE HOSPI-TAL...?
Then Felhan's mom's gotten worse...?

HEY FRANCIS... MISS NATALIE'S IN THE PAPER
HERE, TAKE A LOOK
SHUK

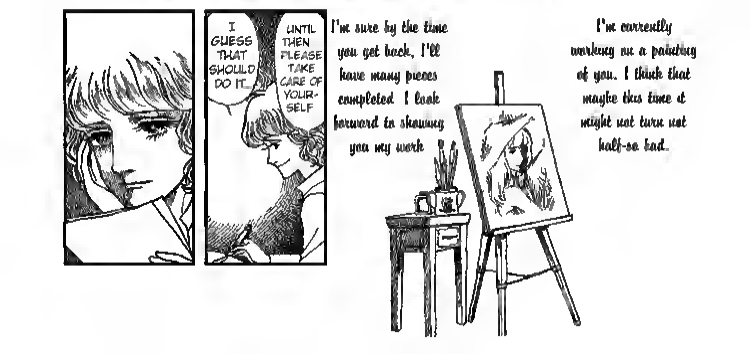

This is the city...
...where I can start over

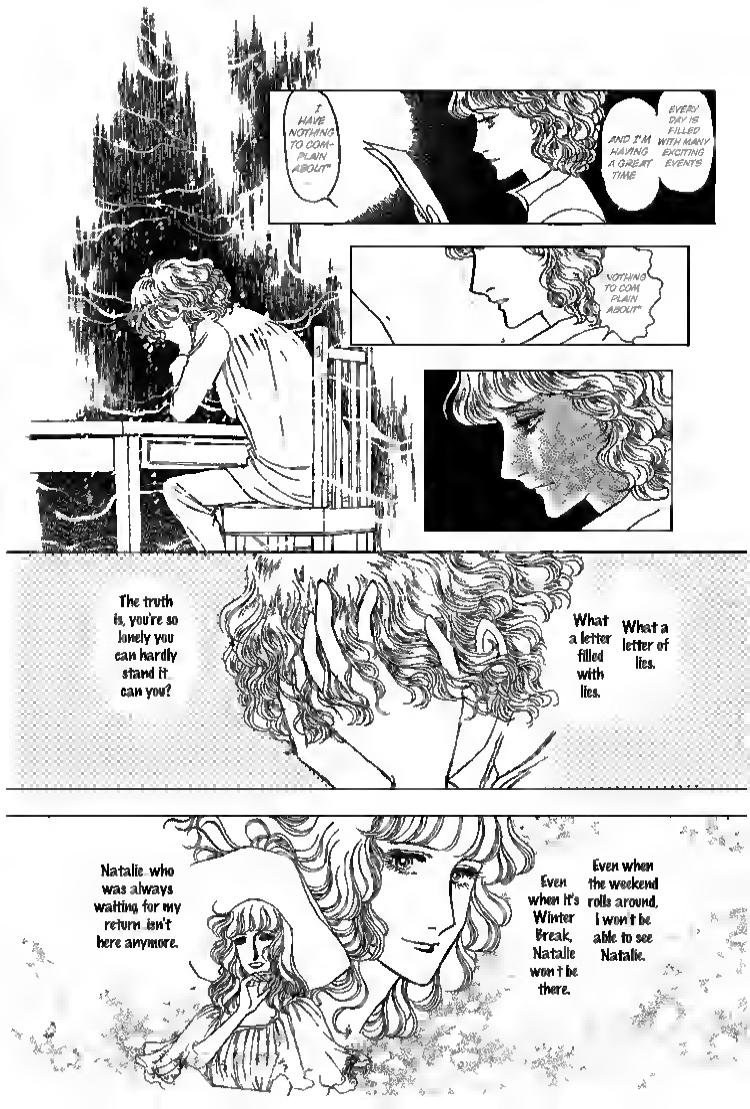
She's no longer the Natalie who used to be mine alone.
My wish for her to stay with me always is one that's borne out of selfishness.
YOU MUST BE SO PROUD!
THIS IS A PICTURE FROM THE AWARDS CEREMONY. IT SAYS HERE IT'S THE FIRST TIME EVER THAT A WRITER FROM FRANCE HAS GOTTEN THIS AWARD!
It's a world that I can't enter.
She's become someone very far away.
She's become a children's author who's the pride of France.
It's as if she's become a stranger.


...IT JUST FEELS AS IF SHE'S GONE OFF TO ANOTHER WORLD...
I AM HAPPY
I AM HAPPY FOR HER BUT...
YOU LOOK REALLY SAD
WHAT'S UP?
HUH?
AREN'T YOU HAPPY ABOUT THIS FRANCIS?
GOOD NIGHT
I WILL AFTER I WRITE MY LETTER TO HER.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO BED?
JUST A TAD THOUGH
WELL YEAH, THAT KIND OF MAKES SENSE IF MY MOM WERE TO BECOME SOMEONE WORLD-FAMOUS, I'D BE HAPPY FOR HER, BUT AT THE SAME TIME I'D FEEL A BIT LONELY...
YOU COULD SAY I'M A MOMMA'S BOY AT HEART
YEAH...
OKAY, WELL GOOD NIGHT
CLICK

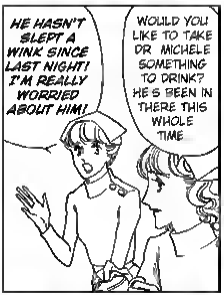
You know of him, don't you? I've sure I mentioned him a couple of times in our conversations since we've been friends since I started attending this school.
I've entered my fourth year, and my new room mate is named Rena Claude. Every day is filled with many exciting events, and I'm having a great time.
Mr. Jeff Howard seems like a very nice man. It always impresses me how those around you always seem to be the nicest of people
I just received your letter today. I'm very glad that you seem to be doing well.

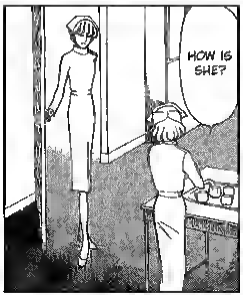
He treats me very well, and I have nothing to complain about
I spend my weekends at Mr. Lankerre's place.
But we are in the same art club, so I see him there.
Felhan's moved onto the secondary level, so I don't get to see him much in classes anymore.

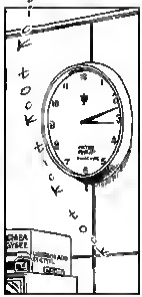

I GUESS THAT SHOULD DO IT.
UNTIL THEN PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
I'm sure by the time you get back, I'll have many pieces completed. I look forward to showing you my work
I'm currently working on a painting of you. I think that maybe this time it might not turn out half-as bad.


I HAVE NOTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT
AND I'M HAVING A GREAT TIME
EVERY DAY IS FILLED WITH MANY EXCITING EVENTS
NOTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT
The truth is, you're so lonely you can hardly stand it, can you?
What a letter filled with lies.
What a letter of lies.
Natalie who was always waiting for my return isn't here anymore.
Even when it's Winter Break, Natalie won't be there.
Even when the weekend rolls around, I won't be able to see Natalie.

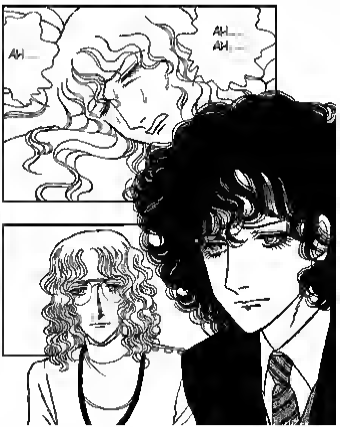
The States is too far away of a place...


HE HASN'T SLEPT A WINK SINCE LAST NIGHT! I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT HIM!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE DR MICHELE SOMETHING TO DRINK? HE'S BEEN IN THERE THIS WHOLE TIME


HOW IS SHE?


tick tock tick tock

IT MUST BE ONE CAUSED BY PSYCHO-LOGICAL FACTORS!
IT'S BEEN TWO DAY. SINCE SHE'S COME DOWN WITH THIS FEVER.
HER FEVER STILL HASN'T GONE DOWN. THERE'S NOTHING PHYSICALLY WRONG WITH HER, SO I WONDER WHY SHE ISN'T GETTING BETTER.


AH...
AH...
AH...

NO!!!!
STOP... NO....
AH... NO...
HMM?
NO...
AH...
AH...

WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?!
PLEASE, TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM!!
AH
Y-YES, RIGHT AWAY!
PREPARE THE SEDATIVES
HE.. DIED.. DIDN'T HE?
BANG!

I...
I...was the one who killed him...!
MOTHER!
KYAAA!

MOTHER! PLEASE, WAIT!
SHE MIGHT END UP KILLING HERSELF!
STOP HER, FELHAN!
I have to stop her
I have to stop her
praying with all my heart that she'd turn and look back at me.
Now that I think about it, I was always chasing after her like this
Please... look back!
Look back...

WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO STOP ME, FELHAN?!
I'M A MURDERER!
IT WAS A SUICIDE! HE KILLED HIMSELF!
WHAT HAVE I TO LIVE FOR ANYMORE?!
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?! I KILLED HIM ALL THE SAME!
WHAT REASON DO I HAVE TO LIVE?!
HE AND JULIUS ARE BOTH DEAD...
I'M... YOUR SON
LIVE FOR ME...
OR IS IT THAT I'M NOT EVEN WORTH THAT MUCH TO YOU...?

I WAS WAITING FOR YOU TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY PRESENCE!
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU ALL THIS TIME
YOU HAD AMNESIA, AND YOU'VE BEEN HOSPITALIZED EVER SINCE.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY? IT'S BECAUSE IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS SINCE THEN
I'M MUCH TALLER THAN YOU
PLEASE LOOK AT ME
IF YOU WEREN'T CAPABLE OF LOVING ME, WHY DID YOU GIVE BIRTH TO ME?!
.. BUT I'M STILL YOUR SON ALL THE SAME!
AND IT MIGHT BE THE CASE THAT I MADE THE SITUATION WORSE BETWEEN YOU AND FATHER...
IT MIGHT BE THE CASE THAT YOU HATE ME...

...I COULDN'T HARBOR THESE FEELINGS OF HATRED...TO THE VERY END...
DESPITE THAT THOUGH...
I... HATED YOU...
I HATED YOU SO MUCH THAT THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I WANTED TO EVEN KILL YOU ..
HONEST TO GOD, I DID LOVE YOU!
I DID LOVE YOU...I DID LOVE YOU...
FEI HAN ...
FEI HAN ...

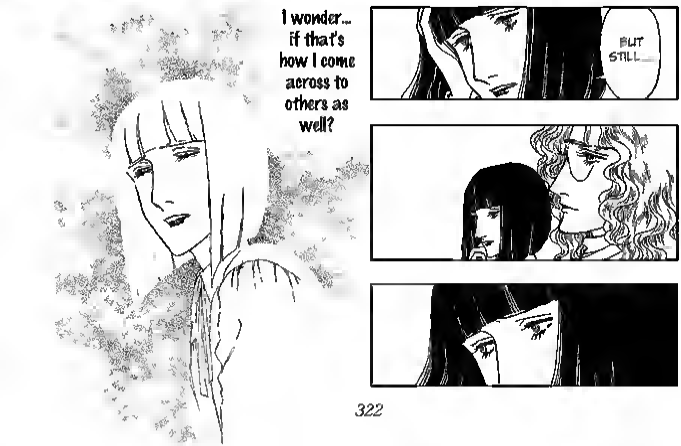
WHEN I HEARD THAT THAT WOMAN WAS PREGNANT I WAS SO MISERABLE AND SO FILLED WITH GRIEF—THAT I WANTED TO SEEK REVENGE ON HIM.
I WAS THE ONE WHO HATED HIM ABOVE ALL ELSE AND YET I MANAGED TO FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM—
IT WAS ME I COULDN'T FORGIVE I KNEW WHAT A TERRIBLE PERSON I WAS
THAT'S WHY I HATED IT SO THE FACT THAT I KEPT BEING REMINDED OF MY MISTAKE
EVEN THOUGH YOUR HAIR COLOUR WAS DIFFERENT YOU LOOKED JUST LIKE ME
I KNEW WHAT I DID WAS FOOLISH AND EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T WANT TO BE REMINDED OF MY FOOLISHNESS YOU WERE ALWAYS THERE IN FRONT OF ME.
She's...
such a sad person.
I TOLD MYSELF OVER AND OVER THAT IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU THEN HE MIGHT'VE LOVED ME...
THAT'S WHY I LAID ALL THE BLAME ON YOU
REGARDLESS OF ALL THAT THOUGH I STILL FELT AFFECTION TOWARDS YOU AND I COULDN'T FORGIVE THAT PART OF MYSELF
MY CRUELTY TOWARDS YOU WAS HOW I WAS ABLE TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE WITHIN MYSELF

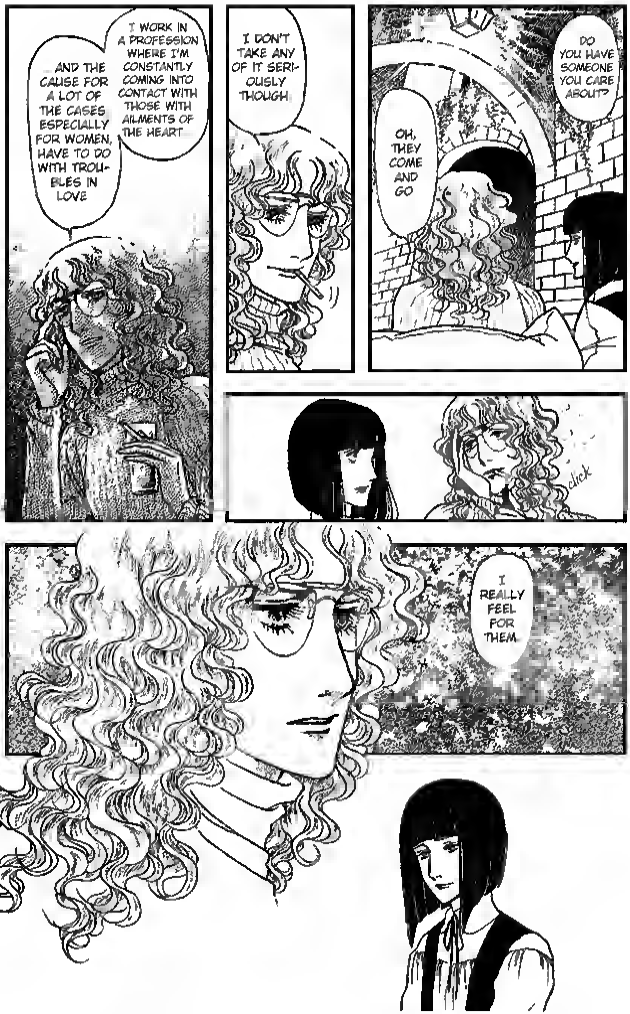
Mother. I understand how you feel.
That must be why I couldn't hate you to the very end.
She loved him to the point of insanity..
She loved him.
THE ONLY WAY SHE COULD SHOW HER LOVE WAS THROUGH HATE
SHE'S NOT AT ALL DIFFERENT FROM ME
SHE WAS ALWAYS WISHING FOR AN OUTREACHED HAND TO CATCH HER FROM FALLING
Y-YEAH...
SOB
I'M SO GLAD THAT SHE'S GOTTEN BETTER..
I'M SO GLAD!

rustle
IT'S ALREADY PAST TEN
YOU SURE MUST LIKE WORK-ING
FEEL FREE TO GO HOME. YOU'RE FINISHED, AREN'T YOU?
OH!
HEY
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID YES-TERDAY TOO. WHEN DID YOU GO HOME LAST NIGHT ANYWAY?
YOU'RE WORK-ING TOO MUCH
THERE RE JUST TOO MANY THINGS THAT I NEED TO GET DONE...

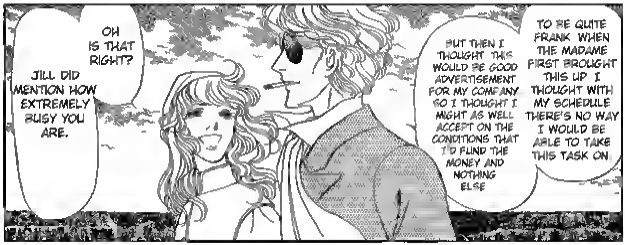
SURE
WELL THEN HAVE A DRINK WITH ME WHY DON'T YOU?
I FEEL LIKE GOING OUT SOMEWHERE
NO I WAS JUST PASSING BY AND SAW THAT THE LIGHTS WERE ON
DO YOU AND ROBERT HAVE PLANS?
YOU'RE RIGHT
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A WHILE BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT IT'S THE FIRST TIME WE'VE ACTUALLY GONE SOMEWHERE ALONE
Cafferia
BUT NOT TO YOU
YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT YOU WANT TO SAY DON'T YOU?
I COULDN'T TELL HER EVEN IF SHE WAS SINCE IT'S ABOUT THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
IF ONLY NATALIE HAD BEEN HERE HUH?
I CAN UNDERSTAND WHERE HE'S COMING FROM.
BUT I THINK THERE'S NO REASON FOR HIM TO WORK SO HARD TO TRY TO PUSH ASIDE HIS EMOTIONS
YOU SHOULD SEE HIM AT WORK HE'S EVEN WORSE
HE DOES SEEM VERY STRESSED LATELY
WELL I'LL PROBABLY COME ACROSS AS A COMPLAINT MORE THAN ANYTHING
BUT I REALLY DON'T LIKE TO KEEP THESE KIND OF THINGS BOTTLED UP

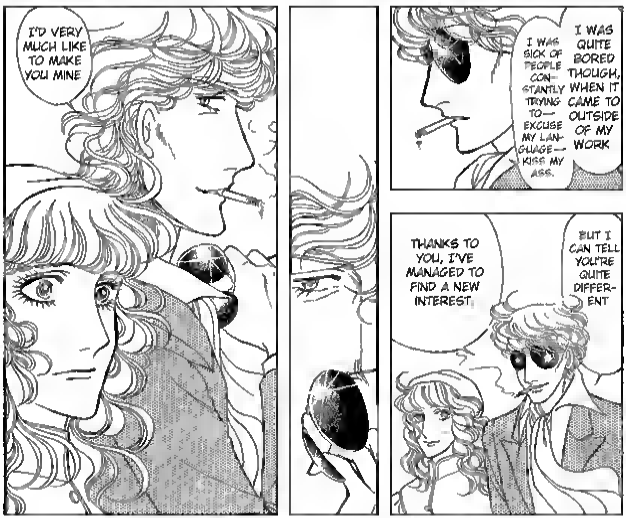
HEAT RESISTANT
Lotrecot
IT WAS BECAUSE IF HE DID, HE WOULDVE TRIED TO MAKE HER STAY
DIDN'T YOU NOTICE HOW HE SAID NOT A WORD TO NATALIE AT THE AIRPORT?
HE DIDN'T WANT HER TO LEAVE FOR THE STATES, AND YET HE SUPPORTED HER IN HER DECISION.
I ALSO KNOW THAT AS LONG AS NATALIE DOESN'T RETURN THOSE FEELINGS, THERE'S NOTHING FOR HIM TO DO EXCEPT BE HER FRIEND.
...HE'S ALWAYS HOLDING HIMSELF BACK, AND ACTING THE ROLE OF HER GOOD FRIEND.
I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT, AND I KNOW HOW...


I wonder... if that's how I come across to others as well?
BUT STILL...


I WORK IN A PROFESSION WHERE I'M CONSTANTLY COMING INTO CONTACT WITH THOSE WITH AILMENTS OF THE HEART.
AND THE CAUSE FOR A LOT OF THE CASES ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN, HAVE TO DO WITH TROUBLES IN LOVE.
I DON'T TAKE ANY OF IT SERIOUSLY THOUGH.
DO YOU HAVE SOMEONE YOU CARE ABOUT?
OH, THEY COME AND GO.
click
I REALLY FEEL FOR THEM.

WOW...
DEPENDING ON THE SUN'S RAYS THAT DAY, IT CHANGES FROM RED TO PURPLE TO BROWN. IT'S A SIGHT TO SEE I TELL YOU!
IT CONTINUES ON LIKE THIS FOR ANOTHER 300 MILES
THIS MAY BE THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER HAD SO MUCH FUN
NOT AT ALL. I'M HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME
I'M SORRY JEFF. TO TAKE YOU AWAY FROM YOUR WORK WHEN I KNOW YOU'RE SO BUSY
WELL IT'S TRUE IF YOU WANT TO TAKE A PROPER LOOK AROUND IT WHICH WOULD TAKE QUITE A WHILE
THE STATES REALLY IS SUCH A VAST COUNTRY! YOU CAN DRIVE ALL DAY AND YET NOT HAVE THE SCENERY CHANGE. THAT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN IN FRANCE


OH IS THAT RIGHT?
JILL DID MENTION HOW EXTREMELY BUSY YOU ARE.
BUT THEN I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE GOOD ADVERTISEMENT FOR MY COMPANY SO I THOUGHT I MIGHT AS WELL ACCEPT ON THE CONDITIONS THAT I'D FUND THE MONEY AND NOTHING ELSE
TO BE QUITE FRANK WHEN THE MADAME FIRST BROUGHT THIS UP I THOUGHT WITH MY SCHEDULE THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE THIS TASK ON.


I'D VERY MUCH LIKE TO MAKE YOU MINE
I WAS SICK OF PEOPLE CONSTANTLY TRYING TO— EXCUSE MY LANGUAGE— KISS MY ASS.
I WAS QUITE BORED THOUGH, WHEN IT CAME TO OUTSIDE OF MY WORK
THANKS TO YOU, I'VE MANAGED TO FIND A NEW INTEREST.
BUT I CAN TELL YOU'RE QUITE DIFFERENT

END OF VOLUME 2

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Volume 2 Chapter 17